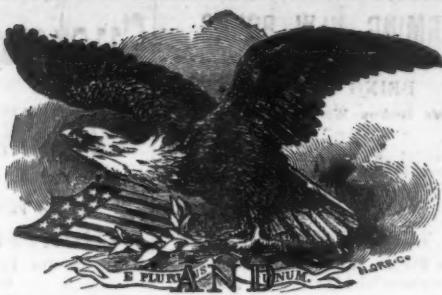


# ARMY NAVY

GAZETTE OF THE REGULAR JOURNAL. AND VOLUNTEER FORCES.



VOLUME XV.—NUMBER 23.  
WHOLE NUMBER 751.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1878.

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Capt. Robert H. Hall, Adjutant, U. S. M. A.

### ABSTRACT OF IMPORTANT ORDERS.

G. O. 122, H. Q. A., Dec. 29, 1877.

The following Joint Resolution of Congress is published for the information of all concerned:

JOINT RESOLUTION relative to reservoirs to promote the navigation of the Mississippi River.

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and is hereby, requested to make such preliminary examination of the headwaters of the St. Croix, Chippewa, and Wisconsin Rivers, in the States of Minnesota and Wisconsin, as is consistent with his service, to determine the extent and practicability of reservoirs upon the same, and report to this Congress the result of such examination, together with a compilation of all information and reports in his office bearing upon the subject of reservoirs, by February 15th proximo, or as early thereafter as practicable. And that he also report the estimated amount and character of the lands which would be submerged by such reservoirs. Approved, Dec. 15, 1877.

G. O. 1, H. Q. A., Jan. 2, 1878.

By direction of the Secretary of War, G. O. 113, Dec. 12, 1876, from this office, is hereby so modified as to allow an Ordnance Sergeant on duty at a post not garrisoned by troops, one cook stove in lieu of one heating stove.

S. O., W. D., Dec. 31, 1877.

By direction of the Secretary of War, the Quarter-master General of the Army, the Adjutant-General of the Army, the Judge-Advocate-General of the Army, are hereby constituted a Board to meet in Washington on the 8th day of January, 1878, or as soon thereafter as practicable, for the purpose of considering and reporting what steps should be taken to carry out the provisions of Section 1231, Revised Statutes (providing for schools for enlisted men). Major C. H. Carlton, 3d Cavalry, will act as Recorder of the Board.

G. O. 27, DEPT. PLATTE, Dec. 29, 1877.

The views of the Chief Commissary of Subsistence of the Department, as herein expressed, relative to the performance of duty by Acting Commissaries of Subsistence and Commissary Sergeants, are approved by the Department Commander, and are published for the information and guidance of all concerned:

The following is an extract from a letter written by an officer in this Department, relative to a Commissary Sergeant: "The Sergeant seems truly repentant, and I hope and believe, will never again attempt to realize money unlawfully; he seems to have a queer fancy, and from what I have gathered during my investigations, many Commissary Sergeants entertain the same idea, it is, that so long as they keep the Commissary Office square, all is right."

It cannot be known how prevalent among Commissary Sergeants may be the code of honesty as above stated. That it is the rule of conduct with some, is undoubtedly true; that it exists at all, and has opportunity for its exercise, is due considerably to the fact that many Post Commissaries do not attend to the details of their business, but leave them to Sergeants, clerks, and other employees whose education for responsible trusts has not fitted them to withstand the temptations that may surround them. The whole theory and practice of an efficient and honest public service centres in the requirement that individuality be merged into subordination; that action must be dependent on superior authority, and subject to its supervision, and where the individual is permitted to act without this constant supervision, it is a surrender of order, efficiency, and perhaps honesty, and while it is the rule of our public service in all its branches, civil and military, to hold its educated and capable agents to a strict accountability in the trusts confided to them, the strange spectacle is too often presented, of a non-commissioned grade in the Army, given full power to act without check and to go on uncontrolled, till such liberty ends in peculation, fraud, and disgrace. No individual, whatever his position, can regulate his conduct free from embarrassments, unless he has it impressed on his mind, that he is responsible to a higher authority, and where there is no feeling of responsibility and accountability, demoralization is sure to follow.

Commissary Sergeants should bear in mind that their grade was recently created for the purpose of attaching to the Subsistence Department an intelligent corps of Non-Commissioned Officers, whose experience would be of value to the Department, and whose services would compensate the Government for their employment. It is their duty to act for the Government, with intelligence and honesty, and their experience should be used for guarding the Government against loss, and not as a means for education in tricks to defraud, and excusing the bad faith with the lying plea that they thought it all right, so long as they "keep the Commissary Officer square."

Where Post Commissaries may have virtually abdicated their duties, and remitted them into the hands of Commissary Sergeants or other assistants, they should resume them at once, and use all proper restrictions for their honest performance, bearing in mind that public business is not to be made dependent on confidence in subordinates of whatever capacity but that it should be regulated by business rules and watchful supervision.

### STAFF CORPS AND DEPARTMENTS

#### CHANGES OF STATIONS.

Major S. Breck, A. A.-G., to duty in the Adjutant-General's Office to date from the 24th inst. (S. O. Dec. 31, W. D.)

A. Surg. W. E. Waters will return to San Antonio, Texas (S. O., Jan. 4, W. D.)

Major S. A. Storow, Surgeon, to Fort Laramie, W. T. (S. O. 1, Jan. 2, D. P.)

A. Surg. W. S. Tremaine, to Fort Dodge, Kas. (S. O. 2, Jan. 4, D. M.)

#### DETACHED SERVICE.

Major H. B. Burnham, J.-A. G. C. M. Camp Douglas, U. T., Jan. 10 (S. O. 149, Dec. 28, D. P.)

A. Surg. R. S. Vickery, M. D., member G. C.-M. Fort Hamilton, N. Y. H., Jan. 7 (S. O. 3, Jan. 4, D. E.)

Capt. O. E. Michaelis, Ord. Dept., to Forts Totten, A. Lincoln, Rice, and Standing Rock Agency (S. O. 1, Jan. 2, D. D.)

A. A. Surg. C. V. Petteys will accompany detachment under command of Major V. K. Hart (S. O. 2, Jan. 3, D. P.)

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

One month, to apply for extension of three months, 1st Lieutenant H. O. Paulding, M. D., Fort A. Lincoln (S. O. 1, Jan. 2, D. D.)

One month, to apply for extension of ten days, A. Surg. C. Carvallo, Fort Union, N. M. (S. O. 1, Jan. 2, D. M.)

Seven days, Capt. T. Wilson, C. S., Boston, Mass. (S. O. 1, Jan. 2, D. E.)

Until April 1, 1878, A. Surg. W. F. Buchanan (S. O., Jan. 3, W. D.)

Four months, from Jan. 1, 1878, Surg. R. H. Alexander (S. O., Jan. 2, W. D.)

Fifteen days, Col. N. W. Brown, Asst. Paymaster-General, Chief Paymaster of Division, N. Y. City (S. O. 2, Jan. 4, M. D. A.)

A. Surg. J. A. Finley, extended two months (S. O., Jan. 5, W. D.)

Lieut. S. E. Tillman, two weeks (S. O. 158, Dec. 19, H. Q. C. of E.)

Capt. Lawrence, extended ten days (S. O. 155, Dec. 14, H. Q. C. of E.)

Lieut. F. A. Hinman, one month (S. O. 150, Dec. 1, H. Q. C. of E.)

Lieut. P. M. Price, one month (S. O. 156, Dec. 17, H. Q. C. of E.)

Two months, to apply for extension of one month, Capt. C. W. Foster, A. Q. M., Ogden, U. T. (S. O. 4, Jan. 7, M. D. M.)

Post Chaplain G. W. Simpson, extended 8 months (S. O., Jan. 8, W. D.)

#### PAYMENT OF TROOPS.

Major J. H. Eaton, P. D., Chief Paymaster, will pay troops to Oct. 31, 1877, at Fort Townsend, W. T. (S. O. 186, Dec. 17, D. C.)

Major W. Smith, P. D., will pay troops stationed at Forts A. Lincoln, Stevenson, and Rice, and at Standing Rock, D. T.; Major G. W. Candee, P. D., at Fort

Randall, Lower Brule Agency, Fort Sully, and Cheyenne Agency, D. T. (S. O. 1, Jan. 2, D. D.)

Major J. P. Willard and Major A. S. Towar, P. D., will pay troops stationed in District, to Dec. 31, 1877, as follows: Major Willard, at Forts Marcy, Stanton, and Wingate, N. M.; Major Towar, at Forts Craig, Bayard, Selden, and Union, N. M. (S. O. 104, Dec. 28, D. N. M.)

The troops in this Dept. will be paid to include the muster of Dec. 31, 1877, as follows: At Camps McDowell and Verde, and Fort Whipple, A. T., by Maj. R. Smith, P. D.; at Yuma Depot, Camp Mojave, A. T., Fort Yuma and San Diego, Cal., by Major J. H. Nelson, P. D.; at Camps Apache, Grant, and Thomas, A. T., by Maj. R. H. Towler, P. D.; at Camps Bowie and Lowell, A. T., including the companies and detachments in the field near Huachuca Mountains, A. T., by Major C. Sniffen, P. D. (S. O. 145, Dec. 24, D. A.)

Major G. E. Glenn, P. D., to Lake Charles, La., paying the troops on muster rolls of Dec. 31, 1877 (S. O. 4, Jan. 5, D. G.)

#### RESIGNED.

The resignation of A. Surg. W. F. Buchanan has been accepted by the President, to take effect April 1, 1878 (S. O., Jan. 8, W. D.)

### THE LINE.

#### CHANGES OF STATIONS OF TROOPS.

Reported to the Adjutant-General's Office during the week ending Saturday, January 1, 1878:

Co. M, 7th Cav., from Fort Rice, D. T., to Fort A. Lincoln, D. T. Co. L, 9th Cav., from Fort Union, N. M., to Fort Bliss, Tex.

Co. D, 1st Inf., from Fort Sully, D. T., to Standing Rock Agency, D. T.

Co. E and K, 17th Inf., from Standing Rock Agency, D. T., to Fort Pembina, D. T.

Co. A, 17th Inf., from Standing Rock Agency, D. T., to Fort Sisseton, D. T.

Co. C, 17th Inf., from Standing Rock Agency, D. T., to Fort Totten, D. T.

Co. F, 17th Inf., from Standing Rock Agency, D. T., to Fort Snelling, Minn.

Post Established.—Fort Bliss, Tex., in Dept. of the Missouri.

1ST CAVALRY, Colonel Cuvier Grover.—Headquarters, and E. F. H. L. Fort Walla Walla, W. T.; C. Camp Bidwell, Cal.; B. Fort Klamath, Oregon; I. Camp Halleck, Nev.; A. Camp Harney, Or.; M. Fort Colville, Wash. T.; D. Presidio, Cal.; G. Fort Boise, I. T.

Detached Service.—Major G. B. S. Ford, Capt. C. C. Carr, 1st Lieut. C. C. Cresson, 2d Lieut. O. J. Brown, members, G. C.-M. Camp Halleck, Nev., Dec. 26 (S. O. 164, Dec. 21, M. D. P.)

1st Lieut. F. K. Upham, R. Q. M., J.-A. of G. C.-M. by par. 4, S. O. 168, from these Hdqrs, vice 2d Lieut. W. H. Miller, relieved (S. O. 186, Dec. 17, D. C.)

Retired.—2d Lieut. C. C. Norton as member G. C.-M. Camp Bidwell, Cal., per par. 2, S. O. 147, from these Hdqrs (S. O. 168, Dec. 20, M. D. P.)

2ND CAVALRY, Colonel I. N. Palmer.—Headquarters, and C. D. K. M. Fort Custer, M. T.; A, B, E, I, Fort Keogh, F, G, H, L, Fort Ellis, M. T.

Relieved.—Capt. G. L. Browning from duty as Inspector of Indian supplies at Crow Indian Agency, M. T. (S. O. 181, Dec. 31, D. D.)

Waiting Orders.—1st Lieut. W. A. Dinwiddie will await orders in Washington, D. C. (S. O., Jan. 5, W. D.)

3RD CAVALRY, Col. Thos. C. Devin.—Headquarters, and A, B, F, K. Fort Laramie, W. T.; I, Fort Fetterman, W. T.; G, Camp Robinson, Neb.; G, Camp Sheridan, Neb.; D, Fort Sanders, W. T.; E, L, New Red Cloud Agency, D. T.; H, M, New Spotted Tail Agency, D. T.

Detached Service.—Capt. G. V. Henry, member, G. C.-M. Camp Douglas, U. T., Jan. 10 (S. O. 149, Dec. 28, D. P.)

Leave of Absence.—One month, to apply for extension of three months, 1st Lieut. J. C. Thompson, Fort Sanders, W. T. (S. O., Jan. 2, D. P.)

4TH CAVALRY, Col. R. S. McKenzie.—Headquarters, and A, C, D, K, L, M, San Antonio, Tex.; G, H, Fort Reno, I. T.; E, Fort Sill, I. T.; I, Camp Supply, I. T.; B, F, Fort Elliott, Tex.

Change of Station.—Additional 2d Lieut. G. K. Hunter will report to the C. O. 3d Cav. for duty with that regiment, pending his promotion to be 2d Lieutenant therein (S. O., Jan. 2, W. D.)

Detached Service.—Major H. G. Thomas, Capt. W. S. Collier, 1st Lieut. H. Neide, members, G. C.-M. Camp Douglas, U. T., Jan. 10 (S. O. 149, Dec. 28, D. P.)

Additional 2d Lieut. D. N. McDonald to remain in St. Paul, Minn., until the arrival of his regiment (S. O. 221, Dec. 31, D. T.)

2d Lieut. A. Rodgers is detailed for duty in connection with the Paris Universal Exposition of 1878, and will report to Hon. R. C. McCormick, Commissioner General for the U. S. (S. O., Jan. 7, W. D.)

Leave Extended.—2d Lieut. A. Rodgers, one month (S. O., Jan. 4, W. D.)

5TH CAVALRY, Col. W. Merritt.—Headquarters and A, B, F, H, I, Fort D. A. Russell, W. T.; C, E, M, Fort McKinney, W. T.; D, Sidney Bks, Neb.; L, Fort McPherson, Neb.; G, Camp Brown, W. T.

Detached Service.—Lieut. Col. E. A. Carr, Major G. A. Gordon, members, G. C.-M. Camp Douglas, U. T., Jan. 10 (S. O. 149, Dec. 28, D. P.)

The C. O. Fort D. A. Russell, W. T., will prepare three companies of his command for active mounted service, and direct them to proceed by rail to Corinne, U. T., thence to march to Fort Hall, Idaho, or to the Indian Agency, as may be directed by Col. J. E. Smith, 14th Inf., commanding in that section. The

companies will be thoroughly provided with ammunition and other necessary stores. Major V. K. Hart, 5th Cav., will command the detachment, and will, upon its arrival at Corinne, or previously, if practicable, report by telegraph, to Col. Smith, 14th Inf. (S. O. 3, Jan. 3, D. P.)

*Leave Extended.*—1st Lieut. C. H. Rockwell, Fort McPherson, Neb., extended one month, to apply for further extension of four months (S. O. 3, Jan. 3, M. D. M.)

1st Lieut. P. P. Barnard, three months (S. O., Jan. 3, W. D.)

*Rejoin.*—1st Lieut. E. W. Ward to his proper station (S. O. 220, Dec. 29, D. T.)

**6TH CAVALRY.** Col. James Oakes.—Headquarters and C. G. M. Camp Grant, A. T.; B. Camp Lowell, A. T.; K. Fort Whipple, A. T.; H. L. Camp Bowie, A. T.; E. D. Camp Apache, A. T.; A. Camp Verde, A. T.; I. Camp McDowell, A. T.; F. Camp Thomas, A. T.

\* In camp near old Camp Wallen, A. T.

*Roster.*—The stations of the officers of this regiment, as given in the January roster, are as follows:

*West Point, N. Y.*: Lieut.-Col. T. H. Neill; 1st Lieut. G. S. Anderson, L. Camp Grant, A. T.; Major C. E. Compton, commanding post; 1st Lieut. J. B. Kerr, Regt. and Post Adj't.; Capt. D. Madden, C.; 1st Lieut. C. G. Gordon, Q. M. and A. C. S.; Capt. T. C. Tupper, G.; 2d Lieut. B. H. Cheever, Jr., G. Prescov. A. T.; J. Biddle, A. I. G.; 1st Lieut. H. P. Perrine, G. A. D. C. New Orleans, La.; A. K. Arnold, disbursing officer. Washington, D. C.; Capt. J. C. Audenreid, K. A. D. C. to Gen. Sherman, Camp Apache, A. T.; Capt. A. Kramer, E.; Capt. E. C. Estig, D.; 1st Lieut. W. Stanton, E. Post Adj't.; 2d Lieut. W. H. Carter, E.; 2d Lieut. C. B. Gatewood, D. Camp Bowie, A. T.; Capt. W. M. Wallace, H. comdg. post and company; 1st Lieut. F. West, H. comdg. 1st; 2d Lieut. G. L. Scott, H. Camp Verde, A. T.; Capt. H. Campbell, I. in arrest; 1st Lieut. A. Honer, A.; 2d Lieut. W. Baird, A. Camp Thomas, A. T.; 1st Lieut. G. E. Overton, F. Post Adj't., comdg. camp. Camp McDowell, A. T.; 1st Lieut. H. M. Kendall, I.; 2d Lieut. E. K. Dravo, I. Fort Apache, A. T.; 1st Lieut. H. E. Kingsbury, K.; 2d Lieut. J. A. Rucker, K. comdg. Indian scouts. Camp Lowell, A. T.; 2d Lieut. R. Hanna, B. comdg. Indian scouts. On *Detached Service*: 1st Lieut. L. A. Abbott, G. San Carlos; 2d Lieut. L. A. Oratio, M. Camp Huachuca; 2d Lieut. A. T. Toney, C.; Capt. S. M. Whitside, B. Camp Huachuca; Capt. A. R. Chaffee, I. N. Y. City. Recruiting Service: 1st Lieut. C. C. Morrison, D. on Geographical Survey. On *Leave*: Col. J. Oakes, Capt. W. A. Bafferty, M.; Capt. C. B. McLellan, L.; 2d Lieut. A. P. Blockwood, P. On *Sick Leave*: 1st Lieut. J. H. Sands, C.; Capt. J. Kerlin, F.; 1st Lieut. H. F. Winchester, B.

**7TH CAVALRY.** Colonel S. D. Sturgis.—Headquarters, and A. D. E. G. H. I. \* K. L. \* M. \* Ft. A. Lincoln, D. T.; C. F. Ft. Totten, D. T.; B. Standing Rock Agency, D. T.

\* In the field.

*Detached Service.*—Major L. Merrill, Capt. M. Moylan, H. J. Nowlan, 1st Lieuts. U. C. DeRudio, J. W. Wilkinson, 2d Lieuts. L. S. McCormick, J. D. Mann, W. H. Baldwin, members, and 2d Lieut. H. L. Scott, J.-A. of G. C.-M. Fort A. Lincoln, D. T., Jan. 10 (S. O. 2, Jan. 3, D. D.)

1st Lieut. L. R. Hare, Act. Engr. Officer, to St. Paul, Minn., to complete the maps and notes of the country passed over by the command of Col. Sturgis during the campaign of 1877 (S. O. 3, Jan. 4, D. T.)

**8TH CAVALRY.** Col. J. I. Gregg.—Headquarters and C. D. I. L. M. Fort Brown, Tex.; A. B. F. \* K. Fort Clark, Tex.; B. G. H. Ringgold Barracks, Tex.

\* Scouting.

*Change of Station.*—Lieut.-Col. N. B. Sweitzer from Dist. of the Rio Grande and Fort Brown to Ringgold Bks (S. O. 221, Dec. 31, D. T.)

The Hdqrs, Field, Staff and Band from Fort Brown to Ringgold Bks (S. O. 221, Dec. 31, D. T.)

*Detached Service.*—Capt. E. G. Fehet to Fort Clark, Tex. (S. O. 219, Dec. 28, D. T.)

*Christmas Tree and Social.*—The 8th Cavalry Band gave a social, on Christmas Eve, in their quarters at Fort Brown, Texas, and all who participated therein enjoyed themselves to the fullest extent. The trimmings, etc., on the Christmas tree were beautiful, and the decoration of the room was very tastefully and artistically done, and taken together with the illumination of every window in the entire barracks with numerous lights, presented a spectacle at once brilliant and beautiful. Nor was there any lack of that which delights the inner man, the viands furnished being of the very best and in abundance. As quite a number of the members of the band will be discharged during the ensuing summer, the occasion was made one which will long be remembered by them with pleasure.

J. M. C.

**9TH CAVALRY.** Col. Edward Hatch.—Headquarters, Santa Fe, N. M.; D. \* E. \* Fort Union, N. M.; I. \* L. \* Ft. Bliss, Tex.; K. Fort Garland, C. T.; F. H. M., Ft. Stanton, N. M.; A. B. C. G. Fort Bayard, N. M.

\* In the field.

*Change of Station.*—Capt. C. Parker will proceed from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Garland, Colo. (S. O. 236, Dec. 29, D. M.)

**10TH CAVALRY.** Colonel Benjamin H. Grierson.—Headquarters and D. L. Ft Concho, Tex.; A. G. I. Fort Sill, I. T.; H. Fort Davis, Tex.; B. Fort Duncan, Tex.; K. San Felipe, Tex.; F. K. M. Ft Clark, Tex.; C. Ft. McPherson, Tex.

*Change of Station.*—Co. I, from duty at Fort Richardson, to Fort Sill, I. T. (S. O. 221, Dec. 31, D. T.)

**11TH CAVALRY.** Col. Israel Vogdes.—Headquarters and B. E. F. K. Fort Adams, R. I.; A. I. Fort Warren, Mass.; C. M. Fort Trumbull, Conn.; H. Fort Preble, Me.; D. L. Fort Independence, Mass.; G. Fort Monroe, Va.

*Detached Service.*—1st Lieut. A. H. Merrill, 2d Lieut. J. P. Wiser, members, and 1st Lieut. L. A. Chamberlin, J.-A. of G. C.-M. Fort Monroe, Va., Jan. 8 (S. O. 4, Jan. 5, D. E.)

*Leave Extended.*—Capt. F. E. Taylor, ten days (S. O. 2, Jan. 3, D. E.)

*1st Lieut. Wheeler.*—The court ordered at New York City, to try 1st Lieut. E. D. Wheeler, was dissolved Dec. 26, Dept. of East, on account of the disappearance of Lieut. Wheeler. He presented himself to the court Friday, Dec. 21, as ordered, and asked an adjournment to Monday, Dec. 24, to prepare his plea. The request was granted, but he did not report Monday. General Hancock was informed of the matter, and sent out persons to find him, but he was still missing Dec. 26, and the court dissolved. He tendered his resignation 10 days before the court met, but its acceptance was refused, and trial ordered.

**2ND ARTILLERY.**—Colonel William F. Barry.—Headquarters and A. D. M. Fort McHenry, Md.; C. Fort Johnson, N. C.; E. F. G. I. San Antonio, Tex.; K. Fort Monroe, Va.; I. Washington, D. C.; B. Fort Foote, Md.

*Detached Service.*—Major J. C. Tidball, 2d Lieut. V. H. Bridgman, members, G. C.-M. Fort Monroe, Va., Jan. 8 (S. O. 4, Jan. 5, D. E.)

*Leave Extended.*—1st Lieut. E. T. C. Richmond, twenty-three days (S. O. 1, Jan. 2, D. E.)

*Transfers.*—1st Lieut. R. G. Howell from Bat. B to D; 1st Lieut. E. T. C. Richmond from Bat. D to B (S. O. Dec. 31, W. D.)

**3RD ARTILLERY.** Col. George W. Getty.—Headquarters and C. D. L. M. Fort Hamilton, N. Y. H.; A. Ft. Monroe, Va.; E. I. Fort Wadsworth, N. Y. H.; B. Fort Niagara, N. Y.; F. Fort Ontario, N. Y. H.; H. Madison Bks, N. Y.; K. Plattsburg Bks, N. Y.; G. Fort Schuyler, N. Y.

*Detached Service.*—Capts. E. R. Warner, E. Gittings, 1st Lieuts. J. M. Lancaster, A. T. Abbott, 2d Lieut. J. R. Williams, Additional 2d Lieut. F. P. Blair, Jr., members, and 2d Lieut. B. H. Randolph, J.-A. of G. C.-M. Fort Hamilton, N. Y. H., Jan. 7 (S. O. 3, Jan. 4, D. E.)

1st Lieut. J. O'Hara, member, G. C.-M. Fort Monroe, Va., Jan. 8 (S. O. 4, Jan. 5, D. E.)

**4TH ARTILLERY.** Col. W. H. French.—Headquarters, B. C. E. L. Presidio, Cal.; H. K. Alcatraz Isl., Cal.; M. Fort Stevens, Or.; D. G. Fort Canby, Wash. T.; L. Fort Monroe, Va.; A. Fort Townsend, W. T.; P. Ft. San Jose, Cal.

*Detached Service.*—The journey performed by 1st Lieut. P. Leary, Jr., from Fort Stevens, Ore., to Portland, Ore., between the 4th and 15th inst., is authorized (S. O. 187, Dec. 18, D. C.)

2d Lieut. C. Deems, member, G. C.-M. Fort Monroe, Va., Jan. 8 (S. O. 4, Jan. 5, D. E.)

**5TH ARTILLERY.** Col. Henry J. Hunt.—Headquarters and E. F. I. Charleston, S. C.; A. K. St. Augustine, Fla.; B. L. M. Fort Barrancas, Fla.; G. H. Fort Brooke, Fla.; C. Fort Monroe, Va.; D. Savannah, Ga.

*Detached Service.*—Capts. J. R. Brinkle, G. V. Weir, 1st Lieuts. H. J. Reilly, W. B. McCallum, 2d Lieut. S. F. Massey, members, and 1st Lieut. W. Willard, J.-A. of G. C.-M. Fort Barrancas, Fla., Jan. 3 (S. O. 204, Dec. 29, D. S.)

Capt. W. F. Randolph, 1st Lieut. B. K. Roberts, 2d Lieut. J. M. Baldwin, members, G. C.-M. Fort Monroe, Va., Jan. 8 (S. O. 4, Jan. 5, D. E.)

**1ST INFANTRY.**—Colonel Thomas G. Pitcher.—Headquarters and A. C. E. I. Ft. Randall, D. T.; B. G. Lower Brule Agency; F. H. K. Fort Sully, D. T.; D. Standing Rock Agency, D. T.

**2ND INFANTRY.**—Colonel Frank Wheaton.—Headquarters and A. B. D. F. G. Fort Lapwai, I. T.; C. K. Mt. Idaho, I. T.; H. I. Spokane Falls, I. T.; E. Fort Colville, W. T.

**3RD INFANTRY.**—Colonel De L. Floyd-Jones.—Headquarters and A. C. E. F. K. Ft. Helena, M. T.; B. D. H. I. Missoula City, M. T.; G. Camp Baker, M. T.

**4TH INFANTRY.**—Colonel Franklin F. Flint.—Headquarters and G. K. Fort Bridger, W. T.; A. Fort Fred Steele, W. T.; C. Fort Fetterman, W. T.; D. Omaha Bks, Neb.; B. E. I. Cantonment, Reno, W. T.; H. Camp Stambaugh; F. Fort Sanders, W. T.

**5TH INFANTRY.**—Colonel Nelson A. Miles.—Headquarters and A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. K. Ft. Keogh, M. T.

*Leave Extended.*—2d Lieut. H. K. Bailey, two months on Surg. certificate (S. O., Jan. 4, W. D.)

**6TH INFANTRY.**—Colonel William B. Hazen.—Headquarters and E. F. G. I. Ft. Buford, D. T.; A. Fort Rice, D. T.; B. Ft. Abraham Lincoln, D. T.; H. K. Fort Stevenson, D. T.; C. Glendive, M. T.; D. Fort Peck, M. T.

*Detached Service.*—1st Lieut. J. Carland, member, G. C.-M. Fort A. Lincoln, D. T., Jan. 10 (S. O. 2, Jan. 2, D. D.)

**7TH INFANTRY.**—Colonel John Gibbon.—Headquarters, and A. B. C. H. I. K. Ft. Shaw, M. T.; G. Fort Ellis, M. T.; D. E. Camp Baker, M. T.; F. Ft. Benton, M. T.

*Detached Service.*—Capt. G. L. Browning is to witness at the Crow Indian Agency, M. T., "each delivery of beef and other supplies" for the Indians (S. O. 181, Dec. 31, D. D.)

1st Lieut. D. Robinson, member, G. C.-M. Columbus Bks, O., Jan. 10 (S. O., Jan. 5, W. D.)

*Leave Extended.*—Major G. Ilges, two months (S. O., Jan. 3, W. D.)

**8TH INFANTRY.**—Col. August V. Kautz.—Headquarters, Prescott, A. T.; F. Fort Whipple, A. T.; A. B. Camp Verde, A. T.; C. Camp McDowell, A. T.; K. Camp Lowell, A. T.; E. G. Camp Apache, A. T.; H. San Diego, Cal.; I. C. Grant, A. T.; D. Camp Thomas, A. T.

*The Arizona Miner says:* We have received a letter from a soldier at Camp McDowell, who appears to represent a general sentiment among his companions in arms, in an expression of gratitude to an amiable lady, Mrs. Captain Summerhayes, wife of the quartermaster at that post, for her unremitting attentions to the sick. She is represented as a ministering angel in camp, and the hospital is her bower. The writer, in an exuberance of gratitude, calls her the "Lily of Verde Vale."

*Change of Station.*—Lieut.-Col. J. D. Wilkins will return to his station, Fort Whipple, A. T. (S. O. 166, Dec. 24, M. D. P.)

*Detached Service.*—Capt. J. J. Van Horn will report to the Supt. General Recruiting Service, N. Y. City, to conduct a detachment of recruits (musicians and mechanics) to regiments serving in the Mil. Div. of Pacific (S. O., Jan. 7, W. D.)

*Co. H.*—B. W. writes to the San Diego *Times* as follows, Nov. 24: "Messrs. Editors—Your careful reports and impartial manner causes your admirers to say, that the justice you did to the landing of the Mexico you rather neglected to set forth the merits of the United States troops just arrived. There is a large number of these men who have seen twenty-three years' service. Major Wells is one of the best infantry officers in the service, and in his command are the best non-commissioned officers. Patrick Burns, 1st Sergeant, is now serving out his fifth enlistment."

**9TH INFANTRY.** Col. John H. King.—Headquarters and B. G. H. I. Omaha Barrack, Neb.; E. Cantonment Reno, W. T.; A. F. Fort McPherson, Neb.; C. Camp at Cheyenne Depot, W. T.; D. Sidney Bks, Neb.; K. Fort Sanders, W. T.

*Detached Service.*—Lieut.-Col. L. P. Bradley, member, G. U.-M. Camp Douglas, U. T., Jan. 10 (S. O. 149, Dec. 28, D. P.)

**10TH INFANTRY.** Col. John Henry B. Clitz.—Headquarters and A. B. \* C. \* F. L. \* Fort McKavett, Texas; D. Fort McIntosh, Tex.; E. Fort Richardson, Tex.; G. \* H. \* K. \* Fort Clark, Tex.

\* In the Field.

*Change of Station.*—Capt. R. P. Wilson will proceed with 2d Lieut. C. E. Bottsford and all the enlisted men of Co. E, now at San Antonio, Tex., to Fort Richardson, Tex. (S. O. 221, Dec. 31, D. T.)

2d Lieut. J. R. Cranston is appointed A. A. Q. M. at Galveston, Tex. (S. O. 1, Jan. 1, D. T.)

**11TH INFANTRY.** Colonel William H. Wood.—Headquarters and A. D. E. G. I. K. Cheyenne Agency, D. T.; H. Fort Keogh, M. T.; B. C. F. Post No. 2, M. T.

*Leave of Absence.*—One month, to apply for extension of five months, 1st Lieut. J. Whitney, Cheyenne Agency, to take effect after the return of Capt. Choisy (S. O. 181, Dec. 31, D. D.)

**12TH INFANTRY.** Colonel Orlando B. Willcox.—Headquarters and C. D. L. M. Fort Hamilton, N. Y. H.; A. Ft. Monroe, Va.; E. I. Fort Wadsworth, N. Y. H.; B. Fort Niagara, N. Y.; F. Fort Ontario, N. Y. H.; H. Madison Bks, N. Y.; K. Plattsburg Bks, N. Y.

*Detached Service.*—2d Lieut. R. K. Evans, J.-A. of G. C.-M. Camp Bidwell, Cal., par. 2, S. O. 147, from these Hdqrs (S. O. 163, Dec. 20, M. D. P.)

1st Lieut. G. S. Wilson, member, and 2d Lieut. W. Allen, J.-A. of G. C.-M. Camp Halleck, Nev., Dec. 26 (S. O. 164, Dec. 21, M. D. P.)

1st Lieut. H. L. Haskell, J.-A. of G. C.-M. Camp Bidwell, Cal., par. 2, S. O. 147, from these Hdqrs (S. O. 165, Dec. 22, M. D. P.)

Lieut.-Col. A. D. Nelson, Insp.-Gen. of Dept., to Forts Totten, A. Lincoln and Rice and to Standing Rock Agency, and make inspection of the 7th Cav. (S. O. 1, Jan. 2, D. D.)

"*Happy for Life.*"—Under this heading the Delaware (*O. Gazette*) gives an account of what it describes as "the most brilliant affair of the kind that has ever taken place in this modest city," namely, the marriage of Miss Maggie Richardson, "one of Delaware's fairest daughters," to Lieut. A. C. Sharpe, of the U. S. A. Four brother officers, in full dress uniform, stood as best men—Lieuts. Crittenden, grandson of Kentucky's once distinguished Senator of that name, with Foster, Martin and Smith, also of the U. S. A. The ladies in waiting were Miss Belle Richardson, sister of the bride, Miss Nannie Little, a cousin, Miss Mary Butler, and Miss Lizzie Royer, all of Delaware.

**13TH INFANTRY.** Colonel P. R. de Trobriand.—Headquarters and A. D. H. I. Jackson Bks, La.; B. F. K. Baton Rouge Bks, La.; C. E. Little Rock Bks, Ark.; G. Mount Vernon, Ala.

*Detached Service.*—1st Lieut. E. Griffith, A. C. S., at Mount Vernon Bks, Ala., to Mobile, Ala. (S. O. 2, Jan. 3, D. G.)

1st Lieut. J. B. Guthrie, J.-A. of G. C.-M. by par. 2, S. O. 177, from these Hdqrs (S. O. 2, Jan. 3, D. G.)

*Relieved.*—1st Lieut. T. S. Mumford as J.-A. of G. C.-M. by par. 2, S. O. 177, from these Hdqrs (S. O. 2, Jan. 3, D. G.)

*To Join.*—2d Lieut. B. H. Gilman to join his company at Baton Rouge Bks, La. (S. O. 3, Jan. 4, D. G.)

**14TH INFANTRY.** Col. John E. Smith.—Headquarters and D. E. F. G. I. Camp Douglas, Utah; A. Fort Hall, Idaho; B. C. H. Fort Cameron, U. T.; K. Fort Hartsuff.

*Detached Service.*—1st Lieut. J. E. Quentin, member, G. C.-M. Columbus Bks, O., Jan. 10 (S. O., Jan. 5, W. D.)

**15TH INFANTRY.** Col. Geo. A. Woodward.—Headquarters and D. K. Ft. Wingate, N. M.; B. Ft. Garland, C. T.; A. G. Fort Craig, N. M.; F. Ft. Union, N. M.; E. Fort Bayard, N. M.; H. Fort Stanton, N. M.; I. Fort Marcy, N. M.; C. Fort Bliss, Tex.

*Change of Station.*—Co. C (Conrad's) from duty at Fort Union, N. M., to Fort Bliss, Tex.; Major N. W. Osborne, now at Fort Bliss, is assigned to the command of the post of Fort Craig, N. M. (S. O. 103, Dec. 27, D. N. M.)

*Detached Service.*—1st Lieut. H. R. Brinkerhoff, member, G. C.-M. Columbus Bks, O., Jan. 10 (S. O., Jan. 5, W. D.)

**16TH INFANTRY.** Colonel G. Pennypacker.—Headquarters, A. C. H. Fort Riley, Kas.; E. I. Fort Reno, I. T.; B. D. Fort Sill, I. T.; G. Fort Hayes, Kas.; K. Fort Gibson, I. T.; F. Fort Wallace, Kas.

**17TH INFANTRY.** Colonel Thomas L. Crittenden.—Headquarters and B. D. I. Standing Rock Ay., D. T.; G. Fort A. Lincoln, D. T.; H. Fort Rice, D. T.; A. Fort Sisseton, D. T.; C. Fort Totten, D. T.; E. K. Fort Pembina, D. T.; F. Fort Snelling, Minn.

*Detached Service.*—1st Lieut. L. M. O'Brien, J.-A. of G. C.-M. Columbus Bks, O., Jan. 10 (S. O., Jan. 5, W. D.)

**18TH INFANTRY.** Colonel Thomas H. Ruger.—Headquarters and B. C. D. E. F. G. K. McPherson Bks, Atlanta, Ga.; H. I. Newport Bks, Ky.; A. Chattanooga, Tenn.

**19TH INFANTRY.** Colonel Charles H. Smith.—Headquarters and E. H. K. Ft. Lyon, C. T.; F. G. Ft. Dodge, Kas.; D. Fort Larned, Kas.; C. I. Fort Elliott, Tex.; A. B. Camp Supply, I. T.

*Detached Service.*—2d Lieut. G. K. Spencer, member, G. C.-M. Columbus Bks, O., Jan. 10 (S. O., Jan. 5, W. D.)

**20TH INFANTRY.** Colonel Geo. Sykes.—Headquarters and B. D. G. I. K. San Antonio, Tex.; A. C. E. F. H. Fort Clark, Tex.

C. Hunt, by battalions of three and two companies (S. O. 2, Jan. 2, D. T.)

*Detached Service.*—Major J. E. Yard, member, G. C. M. Columbus Bks, O., Jan. 10 (S. O., Jan. 5, W. D.) — Capt. L. Wheaton to Galesburg, Ill., and Palmyra, Mo. (S. O., Jan. 8, W. D.)

*Recruits.*—Lieut.-Col. L. C. Hunt will assign the one hundred recruits, now at San Antonio, for his regiment, to the five companies now there (S. O. 2, Jan. 2, D. T.)

**21ST INFANTRY**, Colonel Alfred Sully.—Headquarters and B, D, E, G, H, I, Fort Vancouver, W. T.; C, F, Camp Harney, Or.; C, Ft Townsend, W. T.; F, Fort Klamath, Or.; A, Fort Boise, I. T.

*Detached Service.*—The journeys performed by Major E. C. Mason, A. A. I. G., from Fort Vancouver, W. T., to Portland, Ore., and return, on Nov. 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 12th, 16th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 23d, 24th, 26th, 27th and 30th, are authorized (S. O. 186, Dec. 17, D. C.)

**22ND INFANTRY**, Colonel David S. Stanley.—Headquarters and A, C, D, H, K, Fort Wayne, Mich.; F, K, Fort Brady, Mich.; B, G, Fort Porter, N. Y.; E, Fort Mackinac, Mich.; I, Fort Gratiot, Mich.

*Detached Service.*—Lieut.-Col. E. S. Otis to Fort Gratiot, Mich. (S. O. 2, Jan. 3, D. E.)

**23RD INFANTRY**, Colonel Jeff. C. Davis.—Headquarters and A, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, Fort Leavenworth, Kas.; I, Fort Dodge, Kas.

**24TH INFANTRY**, Colonel Joseph H. Potter.—Headquarters and A, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, Fort Clark, Tex.; B, H, Fort McIntosh, Tex.; C, G, I, K, Ringgold Barracks, Tex.; B, F, Fort Duncan, Tex.

*Change of Station.*—Cos. E and H from Fort Brown to Fort McIntosh, Tex. (S. O. 221, Dec. 31, D. T.)

**25TH INFANTRY**, Colonel George L. Andrew.—Headquarters and A, H, I, Fort Davis, Tex.; C, D, F, Fort Stockton, Tex.; B, K, Ft Clark, Tex.; G, Ft Concho, Tex.; E, Fort Duncan, Tex.

*Change of Station.*—1st Lieut. H. P. Ritzius, R. Q. M., to Fort Davis, Tex. (S. O. 218, Dec. 27, D. T.)

*Casualties among the Commissioned Officers of the U. S. Army reported to the Adjutant-General's Office during the week ending Saturday, January 5, 1878.*

Capt. C. S. De Graw, Asst. Surg.—Resigned Jan. 1, 1878.

2d Lieut. D. M. Greene, 6th Cav.—Resigned Dec. 31, 1877.

*Officers Registered.*—At Hdqrs Mil. Div. Atlantic, Jan. 8; 2d Lieut. C. W. Foster, 3d Art.; 2d Lieut. W. A. Simpson, 3d Art.; Col. I. Vogdes, 1st Art.; 1st Lieut. J. W. Dillenback, 1st Art.; Capt. J. S. Casey, 5th Inf.; 2d Lieut. A. Rodgers, 4th Cav.; 1st Lieut. J. L. Bullis, 24th Inf.; 1st Lieut. G. O. Webster, 4th Inf.; 2d Lieut. O. F. Long, 5th Inf.; Major J. Green, 1st Cav.

#### INDIAN AFFAIRS.

##### THE NEZ PERCES IN CANADA.

THE sheriff of Chouteau County, Montana, telegraphs to Washington, under date of Dec. 29, at Fort Benton, that information has been received by Major Ilges, commanding the United States forces at that fort, that about 100 Nez Perces are now in Sitting Bull's camp, many of whom are anxious to come across the line and surrender. The Departments hesitate to assure these Nez Perces of protection in case of their return. If sent back to their old reservation the courts might try them for murder, or the incensed whites might kill them.

An official letter from Fort Benton, Montana, dated Dec. 18, contains the following in regard to the Canadian police:

It is possible we may have a passage of words if not of arms with our esteemed cousins across the Canadian line. Major Walsh has of late been getting so much notoriety through the American press that he has lost his head. He is doing all that can possibly be done to disaffect our Indians. A little transaction of his, of late, has come to light, which it might be well to inquire into. An official report of the matter has been forwarded to General Terry. During the time General Miles had the Nez Perces surrounded a number of them were sent to the different Indian camps to induce the Indians to attack Miles from the outside. Five or six, with them one woman, came to the Gros Ventres. Instead of attacking Miles they scalped the Nez Perces and captured the woman, whom they have since kept as a prisoner, and as they state were about to turn her over to the United States officers at the time this incident occurred. The Gros Ventres declare they were camped on this side of the boundary line, when Walsh and some other policemen came to their camp and demanded the Nez Perces woman. They refused to give her up, saying that they were going to bring her to the United States officers who had sent them word to do so. Walsh threatened the Indians, saying that if they did not give the woman up he would send the Sioux and Nez Perces across the line to wipe them out. At this threat they gave up the woman, who was taken by Walsh to Sitting Bull's camp. This is the sum and substance of the Indians' story, who state positively that it occurred this side of the line.

**RECRUITING** for the United States Army is active in New York. The applicants for enlistment are very numerous. Many who apply have families, and not a few have seen "better days." At least 40 per cent. of those presenting themselves are rejected.

#### ALL QUIET AT SAN ELIZARIO.

THE Secretary of War has received through military channels the following despatch addressed to General Pope by Colonel Hatch, in command at El Paso, December 31: "Have just returned from below here. I find all quiet; peace and confidence are being restored, and many of those who had fled for fear of the Rangers are returning to their homes. I have obtained much valuable testimony regarding the participation of Mexican citizens in the San Elizario trouble. I believe it will be necessary to retain four companies of cavalry in the vicinity during the winter. The Fort Bayard troops should return to protect the country against Indians." Another despatch from Colonel Hatch, dated the evening of the same day, is as follows: "All is fairly quiet in the valley; have everything well in hand and under control. J. B. Pignenini, the Mexican customs officer for El Paso, just arrived from the city of Mexico, informed me to-day that 200 cavalry are en route from Chihuahua to afford him protection against the lawless on his own side and to prevent them from crossing to this. The Mexican authorities seem inclined to do all they can to prevent them from crossing."

A despatch dated Brownsville, Jan. 3, reports that General Canales and the military officers and Federal employés in Matamoras gave a New Year's ball in the theatre in Matamoras, which was apparently tendered as an evidence of good will and friendship to the inhabitants on both sides of the Rio Grande. A large number of United States Army and Navy officers were present, as well as several United States civil service officers, and citizens of the two nationalities commingled in most harmonious friendship, as if no border troubles had ever existed to mar enjoyment. At a beginning of the new year the ball was a grand success.

Lieut.-Col. Wm. R. Shafter, 24th Infantry, commanding the District of Neuces, has been testifying during the past week before the Sub-Committee on Military Affairs, Representatives Banning, Bragg, Marsh, and White. He stated, as reported by telegraph, that the raiding parties number from two or three up to thirty. Latterly he had not heard of a party of more than twenty. He mentioned the cases of six or seven persons murdered by Indians and Mexican raiders in 1877, and said the number of raids was much smaller during the past two years than previously. The object of the incursions was plunder, not to make war. The Colonel said that his troops first crossed the Rio Grande into Mexico in May, 1876. He was in search of the Lipans, who were seven miles from the town of Saragossa and forty-five miles from the Rio Grande. The result of the expedition was the killing and capturing of nineteen Indians, the capture of their stock and the destruction of their village. His second crossing was in June, 1876, when he captured 127 head of horses and mules. He made other crossings during the past year—six in all. Another crossing was made by him fifteen days before, in conjunction with Mexican troops, but, after a pursuit of twenty miles, the rain washed away the trail and the pursuit of the raiders had to be abandoned. He kept up his expeditions all the time with the full consent of the local Mexican authorities. The well disposed Mexicans are anxious to be rid of the Indians. At the same time a large part of the lowest element thrives upon the plunder the Indians bring them. He knew of only two instances where the Mexican authorities have returned stolen stock; in one case to a Mexican who had ranches on each side of the river and in the other to an American. The reason why Americans do not go over into Mexico to claim stolen stock is, they say, that there are so many restrictions there and the requirements to prove property so severe that the journey would be fruitless. Within the last three or four months there has been a stronger array of Mexican troops on the border than at any time previously in the interest of good order.

If the Mexicans would exert themselves to protect American citizens we have more than enough troops, but if we are to cross into Mexico for that purpose we have not troops enough. In his expeditions into Mexico he had always been treated with great cordiality by Mexican officers and by the respectable citizens of the frontier towns. Before the issuance of the order of the War Department to cross the Rio Grande there did not appear to be any objection on the part of the Mexicans that this should be done; but when the formal order was issued it seemed to the Mexicans an assumption on our part to dictate to the Mexicas. That order was, however, modified in July, 1877, so as to provide that when the Mexican troops prepared to go in pursuit of raiders ours must stop. A report of the result in each instance was required to be made to the Department.

The bitterness of feeling expressed on the frontier was by those who have been robbed of their property. Our citizens on the border are opposed to war. They only want protection. The Colonel said that all along in his military district, with the exception of a few Mexican thieves, the largest raids were committed by Indians. It was almost impossible to prevent them from crossing, as they come over on foot to the uninhabited part of the border country and lie in wait until opportunity occur for making raids in the populated sections. After stealing horses and cattle they dexterously make their escape.

Lieut. John L. Bullis, of the 24th Infantry, was also examined. He gave a circumstantial account of his raids into Mexico, and said among other things: "There are many officers in our Army who are desirous of leading an active life by following the raiders back into Mexico; and there is a class who would take more pleasure in lying in garrison than operating in the field. There were no officers anxious to bring on a conflict between the two nations unless with just

cause; it is the power of the Mexicans to punish or exterminate these Indians, who are the source of almost all the troubles."

(From the Washington Republican).

#### SOLDIERS' WAR CLAIMS.

EVERY soldier who entered the United States military service during the late war mounted on his own horse is by law entitled to be paid for the same if lost in that service. The records as to loss of horses in battle, or forced marches, or by other military exigencies, and in remote places, cannot be complete. The officers having jurisdiction in the settlement of these cases impose rigid rules as to evidence, to comply with which the soldier is subjected to great labor, expense, and delay, and although the claims are small, they are never certified for payment until entirely free from doubt as to their validity. If these creditors are compelled to resort to a court to enforce their claims, the expenses would probably exceed the amount involved, hence a proposition to submit them to a court is substantially to repudiate them, by making it necessary to exhaust their value in the expense of a judicial investigation.

On account of the rigid rules as to evidence, and the difficulty and expense of securing testimony, Secretary Sherman found a large number of this class of claims, which had accrued during the late war, still pending when he entered upon his duties, and they fell within the class designated by him "long accrued or past due claims." The Secretary does not appear to be on friendly terms with these claims, and the feeling of dissent seems to be graduated and proportioned according to the time they chance to have been due. His aversion appears to act in geometrical ratio from the war of 1812 or the Mexican war down to the late war, when it reaches cases which occurred in the war to crush rebellion it seems to have reached gigantic proportions. Under this frame of mind the Secretary has seen fit to exercise his ingenuity to find some means to prevent the drain upon the Treasury that the payment of these claims would involve; and if these are not honest, well-sustained claims, he is right; but if they are such he must be wrong. The examination of sections 3,482 and 3,483 of the Revised Statutes, enacted June 22, 1874, from nine to thirteen years after most of these claims had originated, it will be seen that they were declared to be "debts" due by the United States. And by further examination of section 3,689, Revised Statutes, it will be further discovered that there was appropriated to pay these "debts" "such sums as may be necessary," and that this appropriation was declared to be "permanent and indefinite," and that consequently no unexpended balances of the same ever existed at any time upon the books of the Treasury. The next expedient resorted to by the Secretary to prevent a drain upon the Treasury, for the payment of these "debts," was to refuse to sign the warrants for them after they had been settled and certified for payment; but as this expedient was found to be a sudden reversal of the action of his predecessor and his subordinates, it became necessary to accompany that action with an assignment of reasons therefor. These reasons he assumes to find in section 5 of the act of June 20, 1874, which reads as follows:

Section 5. That from and after the first day of July, eighteen hundred and seventy-four, and of each year thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall cause all unexpended balances of appropriations, which shall have remained upon the books of the Treasury for two fiscal years, to be carried to the surplus fund and covered into the Treasury; *Provided*, That this provision shall not apply to permanent specific appropriations.

This statute, it will be seen, is confined to the "covering in" of the unexpended balances found to be on the books of the Treasury for two years, thus excluding from its operation all the indefinite appropriations of section 3,689, to say nothing of the proviso contained in the inhibition of the law itself, "shall not apply" to permanent specific appropriations, the appropriations of section 3,689 being clearly "permanent and specific."

We give these plain facts of the case to show why a large class of honest and just claimants are dissatisfied with the action of the Secretary in withholding payment of the "debts" due them from the Government, and in covering into the Treasury the moneys appropriated for these purposes before their claims had been cancelled by payment. Very many, if not all these claims, are just debts due to the soldier who has served his country faithfully and usefully, and should be honestly paid. It is not the part of justice to withhold payment, and it is to be hoped that the Secretary will be led by some influence to change his policy, and do simple justice to a class of creditors whose claims are as just as if nominated in a bond with coupons attached.

**CADET ENGINEERS.**—At a meeting of the Cadet Engineers of the class of 1879, U. S. Naval Academy, held in consequence of the death of Michael D. Noel, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, God, in His providence, has been pleased to remove our classmate and friend, Michael D. Noel; therefore, Resolved, That we respectfully tender our heartfelt sympathy to his family in their bereavement.

Resolved, That, in the death of Mr. Noel, the Navy has lost one whose abilities and determined spirit would have made him a talented and valuable officer.

Resolved, That the class has lost a man beloved and respected by all, and one whose sterling worth endeared him to all whom he came in contact; and that his many good qualities and the pleasure of having been associated with him will cause his memory always to be tenderly cherished.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of our late classmate.

**THE REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE.**—M. Gambetta's organ, calls on the government to remove the present commanders of the several army corps. Most of these generals are Bonapartists, and none of them are Republicans.

## THE NAVY.

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, President and Com'der-in-Chief  
RICHARD W. THOMPSON, Secretary of the Navy.  
JOHN W. HOGG, Chief Clerk.

BUREAUS OF THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.  
YARDS AND DOCKS—Rear-Admiral Jno. C. Howell.  
NAVIGATION—Rear-Admiral Daniel Ammen.  
EQUIPMENT AND RECRUITING—Commodore R. W. Shufeldt.  
ORDNANCE—Commodore Wm. N. Jeffers.  
MEDICINE AND SURGERY—Surgeon-General Wm. Grier.  
PROVISIONS AND CLOTHING—F. M. G., Geo. F. Cutler.  
SHIP'S ENGINEERING—Eng.-in-Chief Wm. H. Shock.  
CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR—Chief Constructor John W. Esby  
FLAG OFFICERS AFLOAT.

EUROPEAN STATION—Rear-Admiral W. E. Le Roy.  
ASiATIC STATION—Rear-Admiral T. H. Patten.  
NORTH PACIFIC—Rear-Admiral Alex. Murray.  
SOUTH PACIFIC—Rear-Admiral Geo. H. Preble.  
SOUTH ATLANTIC—Commodore Edw. T. Nichols.  
NORTH ATLANTIC—Rear-Admiral S. D. Trenchard.

FLAG OFFICERS ON SHORE DUTY.  
NAVAL OBSERVATORY—Rear-Admiral John Rodgers, Supt.  
NAVAL ASYLUM, PHILADELPHIA—Rear-Admiral J. R. M.  
Mullany.

NAVAL ACADEMY—Rear-Admiral C. R. P. Rodgers.  
COMMANDANTS NAVY YARDS.  
Commodore E. R. Cotham, Navy-yard, Mare Island.  
Commodore Foxhall A. Parker, Boston, Mass.  
Commodore J. W. A. Nicholson, New York.  
Commodore John C. Febiger, Washington, D.C.  
Commodore J. Blakely Creighton, Norfolk, Va.  
Commodore Peirce Crosby, League Island, Penn.  
Commodore John Guest, Portsmouth, N. H.  
Captain George E. Belknap, Pensacola, Fla.  
Commodore D. McNeill Fairfax, New London.

## VARIOUS NAVAL ITEMS.

The *Omaha* left the Navy-yard, Norfolk, on the 9th January.

THE Washington *Capital* says: "One of the most pleasant ways of passing an hour is at the 'matinee dansante' every Monday, after dress parade, at the marine barracks. The officers are very attentive to all who attend; and there are generally quite a number of ladies present."

THE *Plymouth* arrived at Aspinwall on Dec. 21, from Norfolk, Nov. 19, St. Thomas, Dec. 10, Porto Rico, Dec. 12, and Puerto Plata, Dec. 14.

ADMIRAL RODGERS, the Superintendent of the National Observatory at Washington, would like Congress to compel all railroads to have their depot clocks furnished with double sets of hands of different colors, one marking local time and one Washington time. He thinks people would come to doing the same thing with their clocks and watches, and thus a "double standard" of great convenience to the community would be popularized.

SURGEON E. S. MATTHEWS arrived at New York by the last steamer from Panama, having left the *Plymouth* at the latter place. Dr. Matthews came North in charge of Cadet Midshipman Lansdale, who had been seriously ill with fever and needed medical attendance en route. Mr. Lansdale was given into the care of his friends at Philadelphia, and is in a convalescent state. Dr. Matthews will rejoin the *Plymouth* on her arrival at Port Royal.

THE steam tug *Nina*, at the Torpedo Station, Newport, rendered assistance to the steamer *Old Colony*, on the occasion of her being in distress on Jan. 6. Capt. Breese was applied to by the agent of the Old Colony Steamboat Co. for a tug to go outside to the aid of a large passenger steamer supposed to be the *Old Colony*. The *Nina*, in charge of Lieut. Maynard, was sent on this duty. Just outside the light ship on Brenton's reef, the *Old Colony* was fallen in with, in tow of a wrecking steamer which had accidentally come across her, and the tow line parting at that moment, gave the *Nina* an opportunity to give the *Old Colony* a line and tow her to her wharf.

From the Boston Navy-yard we learn that the *Tallapoosa* left Boston, Tuesday, Jan. 8, for New York. She took twenty boys from the *Wabash* for the *Saratoga* at Norfolk. The boilers for the *Kearsarge* are to be sent from the Boston yard to Portsmouth. Commodore Parker left Boston, Monday, Jan. 6, for Washington, to serve on the Board for the examination of the class of 1875. Com. Parker is senior member of the Board. He will be absent about two weeks. The Custom house officials seized some goods belonging to the Paymaster of the *Kearsarge* as they were leaving the Navy-yard. Repairs on the *Richmond* are progressing very slowly, and it may be July before she is ready for sea. She is found to need more extensive overhauling than was anticipated, and it has been decided to add a light spar deck, such as has been added to the *Brooklyn* and *Hartford*, vessels of the same class. The mercury touched five below on Tuesday morning at the Boston yard.

THE grounding of the *Kearsarge* in Portsmouth Harbor, reported in the daily papers, was the result of the breaking of the ring of the buoy. On the 4th of January, while riding to the flood running at about five knots, the ship sheering wildly, the ring gave way and the ship started up stream. The star board anchor was let go and veered to forty fathoms, the ship given a rank sheer to northward and eastward, and the port anchor dropped under foot to keep her clear of Beacon Ledge on starboard quarter, a ship-length distant. Before the flood tide slackened, two lines were gotten out—one to the buoy just left and the other to a mooring post at the yard. There was no tug at the yard, and steam could not be gotten up the *Kearsarge* under several hours. At 1 P. M. the

port anchor was picked up, brought to on starboard chain, and began heaving in. In the morning the wind was from southward and eastward, but backed between 11 and 12 M. to northward and eastward, thus tailing the ship on the outlying bar of Beacon Ledge. A fresh wind made the heaving very heavy, but the ship kept going ahead until about half-past 3 (the wind having kept her from swinging to the ebb), when it was observed that her counter had touched on the ledge. The tide had fallen from two to three feet. An effort to force her off by means of the foresail and on topsail and jib was unsuccessful. The port anchor was again let go to keep her from driving further on—the broadside battery run forward and the guns lashed. About 7 P. M. the flood tide having made, steam was ordered, but the boilers leaked so badly it required five hours to raise it. After several efforts a 10 inch manilla cable was run at 8 P. M. from the yard to the bow, and hove taut on shore, and at 10 P. M. the ship floated, the port anchor was hove up, the ship swung clear into the stream, and was hauled alongside the dock. While aground frequent soundings showed that she was afloat everywhere but about the mizzen mast. She lay easily without bumping, made no water, and it is thought sustained no damage more than the scraping of a few sheets of copper. She was inspected by the Board of Inspectors, and although the ship was in a confused condition from the troubles of grounding, everything indicated that she was in fine order and in a good state of efficiency.

## NAVY GAZETTE.

## REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE

## ORDERED.

JANUARY 2.—Midshipmen York Noel, Frank J. Milligan, Geo. F. Emmons, Wm. G. Cutler, Fidello S. Carter, Frank W. Coffin, Charles Laird, Walter S. Hughes, Harry M. Hodges, Frank F. Fletcher, Alexander Sharp, Moses L. Wood, Richard H. Townley, Edward D. Bostick, George H. Worcester, John A. Shearman, Frank E. Beatty, Robert M. Doyle, James T. Smith, Charles M. McCartney, Freckle B. Vinton, Clarence A. Corbin, Henry J. Hunt, Wm. B. Caperton, Ruggles Hunt and George Stoney, to Annapolis, Md., on the 10th January for the required examinations preliminary to promotion.

JANUARY 3.—Pay Inspector Gilbert Thornton, to the Asiatic Station as fleet paymaster, per steamer of 1st February from San Francisco.

JANUARY 4.—Lieutenant-Commander Wm. H. Whiting, as executive of the Constitution.

Lieutenant Arthur B. Speyers, to duty at the Naval Academy on the 1st February.

Chaplain Edward K. Rawson, to the Navy-yard, Norfolk, Va., on the 16th January.

Chaplain John K. Lewis, to the Naval Asylum, Philadelphia, on the 15th January.

JAN. 7.—Commander Charles S. Norton, to command the ironclad steamer *Passaic*, at Washington.

Commander A. T. Mahan and John A. Howell, to temporary duty as members of the Board for the examination of midshipmen for promotion, of which Commodore F. A. Parker is president.

Master Julius C. Freeman, to the Hydrographic Office at Washington.

Midshipman Charles H. Amsden, to examination for promotion on the 10th January.

Gunner Edward J. Waugh, to ordnance duty at the Navy-yard, New York.

JAN. 8.—Passed Assistant Surgeon Thomas H. Streets, to the Navy-yard, League Island, Pa.

Boatswain Thomas W. Brown and Carpenter Joseph G. Myers, to the Supply.

JAN. 9.—Lieutenant-Commander Yates Sterling, to the Navy-yard, Washington, for instruction in ordnance.

Lieutenant Richardson Clover, to the Hydrographic Office.

Master Frank Ellery, to the Supply.

## DETACHED.

JAN. 3.—Gunner S. D. Hines has reported his return home, having been detached from the *Vandalia*, European Station, on the 4th December, and has been placed on sick leave.

JAN. 4.—Captain Oscar C. Badger, from special duty at the Navy-yard, Washington, on the 8th January, and ordered to command the Constitution on the 9th January.

Commander A. P. Cook, from the command of the Constitution on the 9th January, and ordered to command the receiving ship St. Louis, at League Island, Pa.

Commander Byron Wilson, from the command of the receiving ship St. Louis on the 9th January, and placed on waiting orders.

Lieutenant Charles A. Schetky, from the Constitution, and placed on waiting orders.

Chaplain John S. Wallace, from the Naval Asylum, Philadelphia, on the 15th January, and placed on waiting orders.

Salimaker R. L. Tatem, from the Constitution, and placed on waiting orders.

Acting Salimaker Herman Hansen, from the *Swatara*, and ordered to the Constitution on the 9th January.

Acting Salimaker Frank Watson, from the *Franklin*, and ordered to the *Swatara*.

JAN. 5.—Commander Frederick W. McNair, from the command of the *Kearsarge*, and placed on waiting orders.

Lieutenant-Commander C. F. Goodrich, Lieutenant William Little, Masters John P. Wallis, D. D. V. Stuart and L. L. Reamey; Ensign H. P. McIntosh, Surgeon E. C. Ver Meulen, Assistant Surgeon F. Anderson, Chief Engineer George W. Sennser, Passed Assistant Engineer James H. Chasmar, Acting Boatswain John Brady, Gunner E. J. Beacham, and Carpenter Richard Agnew, from the *Kearsarge*, and placed on waiting orders.

Lieutenant Edward W. Very, from duty at the Experimental Battery, Annapolis, Md., and ordered to the Constitution on the 9th January.

Passed Assistant Paymaster Wm. J. Thomson, from the *Kearsarge*, and ordered to settle accounts.

Midshipmen A. C. Hodgson, C. McR. Winslow, H. H. Hosley, James M. Helm, N. R. Usher, and David Daniels, from the *Kearsarge*, and ordered to examination for promotion on the 10th January.

JAN. 7.—Commander Wm. A. Kirkland, from the command of the *Passaic*, and ordered to command the Supply on the 10th January.

JAN. 8.—Lieutenant R. D. Hitchcock, from duty on the Coast Survey, and ordered to the Supply, on the 12th January, as executive.

Lieutenant Charles T. Hutchins, from the Hydrographic Office, and ordered to the Supply on the 12th January.

Lieutenant F. H. Delano, from the receiving ship Wyoming, and ordered to the Supply on the 12th January.

Lieutenant Chas. M. Thomas, from the receiving ship St. Louis, and ordered to the Constitution.

Lieutenant Karl Rohrer, from the Navy-yard, Washington, on the 12th January, and ordered to the Constitution on the 15th January.

Master Henry T. Stockton, from the Navy-yard, League Island, and ordered to the Constitution.

Ensign J. M. Roper, from the Fortune, and ordered to the Supply.

Passed Assistant Surgeon J. L. Neilson, from the Navy-yard, League Island, and ordered to the Supply.

Assistant Paymaster Thomas D. Hoxsey, from the New Hampshire, and ordered to the Supply.

Carpenter Philip T. Mayer, from the Navy-yard, League Island, and ordered to the Constitution.

Carpenter Ebenezer Thompson, from the Constitution, and ordered to the Navy-yard, League Island, Pa.

JAN. 9.—Master J. L. Hunsicker, from the Constitution, and ordered to the receiving ship St. Louis.

Master John Hubbard, from the Hydrographic Office, and ordered to the Supply on the 12th January.

Ensign W. E. Whitfield, W. Alderlee and J. O. Nicholson, from the Constitution, and ordered to the training ship Minnesota.

Midshipman Tempkin M. Potts, from the Powhatan, and ordered to the Constitution.

Cadet Midshipmen J. N. Jordan, O. G. Dodge, J. M. Orchard and W. V. Brounagh, from the Ossipee, and ordered to the Constitution.

## RELIEVED.

Lieutenant Chas. A. Schetky when relieved as executive of the Constitution will report as executive of the receiving ship St. Louis, at League Island, Pa.

PLACED ON RETIRED LIST.

Medical Director Joseph Wilson, from January 6, 1878.

## LEAVE EXTENDED.

The leave of Assistant Surgeon C. G. Herndon has been extended one month.

## LIST OF DEATHS.

In the Navy of the United States, which have been reported to the Surgeon-General for the week ending January 9, 1878:

Joseph A. Clarke, seaman, December 22, 1877, U. S. S. Rio Bravo, at Brownsville, Texas.

Ah Jim, steerage cook, December 26, 1877, U. S. S. Independence, Valijo, California.

Henry McArdle, landsman, January 5, Naval Hospital, New York.

James Buans, seaman, E. F., January 5, Naval Hospital, New York.

## FAG ENDS FROM THE NAVAL ACADEMY.

DURING the practice cruise of last summer, while the U. S. S. *Constellation* and *Mayflower* were anchored in the harbor of New York, one of the cadets applied to Messrs. Homer, Lee and Co., engravers and designers, for a design which could be transferred to his arm by an old sailor who practices tattooing as a profession and fine art. He was so much pleased with the design that he carried his "class book" to Messrs. Homer, Lee and Co. to have them paint it as a title page to the book, a mathematical note book filled up with autographs of classmates and friends, songs, poems, and various odds and ends. The idea of preserving the fragmentary literature contained in this and similar class books; the striking situations in which we found it to abound; to bring out from their seclusion these little songs and poems; to supply for the rude attempt at ornament, symbolic designs to contain autographs; and to bind up the whole in a neat book, was what seemed to the Messrs. Lee a much neglected task, which, if properly done, would supply a want that might prove a great economizer of "bilging," in view of the fact that of twenty-six cadets who furnished them with books, one-half had failed to pass their examinations; partly, it is argued, because of the valuable time stolen from study hours devoted to their class books.

Such is the account given in the preface of the origin of "Fag Ends, from the U. S. Naval Academy." A collection of naval poems, songs, and autographs, chronologically arranged by Messrs. Homer, Lee and Co., and dedicated to the cadets and graduates of the Academy. The songs and poems have been changed as little as possible, and though not the highest expression of the poetic art, they will have an interest to those for whom they were intended as reflecting the spirit of life at the Naval Academy. One hundred and ten original illustrations of a humorous character enliven the volume, and some forty naval songs and poems appear here for the first time in print. The first poem, "From the Larva to the Butterfly," details the adventures of "Decatur Nelson Jones," who, "having been called by the powers that be, to quit Podunk and face the sea, and having been hugged by his anxious mother, and joked and chaffed by his older brother, leaves the homestead door, clad in the best from a country store." After passing the physical test, and handing in his pedigree:

Julius James, a Nubian knight,  
An affable, bow-legged, worthy wight,  
Now pilots Nelson before the board  
That waits to test his mental hoard.  
And Jim says, fobbing a pittance, "Few ar'  
So poor, Massa! your passes shuah!"  
Notary Goodwin, constructor of shoes,  
Swears in the Plebe, and takes his dues.

And so through over three hundred similar lines we have a description of life at the Academy as it appears from the cadets' point of view, until

Decatur Nelson Jones now goes  
From his toils and trials, joys and woes;  
He graduates 1 in his class to-day;  
First, home for a visit, and then—away!  
When our Navy grapples a foeman grim,  
On the quiet seas, look out for him.

The "Middy's Farewell" follows, and then a rhyming reminiscence of the forbidden pastime of hazing, called the "Plebes' Lament." And another, "Hazing of the Green," as follows, which will answer for the Military Academy as well:

O fellows! have you heard the news  
That's going all around,  
For hazing is by law forbid  
On Academic ground.

No more the youngsters we will run,  
Third-c-a-men can't be seen,  
For there's a bloody law against  
The hazing plebes so green.

Oh! she's the most distressful country  
That ever you have seen,  
For they're bilging upper classmen here  
For hazing plebes so green.

"The Pirate" made inquiries,  
And I must be bilged, he saw,  
So no sent and had me captured  
By a minion of the law.

Then they took me to court-martial,  
And used me very mean;  
For they'll bilge you quick as lightning here,  
For hazing plebes so green.—Cho.

And now to all you fellows  
Who want to avoid "Santees,"  
Just bone up on your "Skinny,"  
And let the youngsters be.

For by very sad experience,  
It plainly has been seen,  
That you'll catch the very devil here  
For hazing plebes so green.—Cho.

Next comes "The Entrance Exam," with a full page illustration of the "cit making machine of the Calculus Dept." in which the well known faces of three of the Academic staff appear to advantage. Goodwin, the Naval Academy shoemaker, and the fossil Dorsey, also present themselves in rhyme and illustration. "Ready About," which is above the average of rhymes we copy:

"Silence!" cries the first Lieutenant,  
"Quartermaster, clear your pennant.  
Station fore and aft!" he cries.  
See tacks and sheets all clear to rise.  
Ready! Ready! Helm's a-hue.  
Round she comes, now head to sea.  
Mizen topmast to your places,  
Tend the weather cross-jack braces.  
Mainail haul" to the main yard,  
Hold on each weather topsail brace,  
Shifts the spanker boom in place.  
"Haul braces!" "Haul taut!" "Let go and haul!"  
Overhead the fore sail fall.  
Round the fo'c'sle point well aft.  
Trim your upper yards, the foreward,  
Keep poor luff well to the nor'ard.  
Main tack and sheet, let go the gear,"  
"Mastman, see the ringing clear."  
Haul taut the lifts and weather braces,  
Strike eight bells and heave the log,  
Call the watch and pipe to grog.

The lines which follow were written on the back of an examination paper:

He walketh in the section room,  
He sitteth in a chair,  
He gazeth at the blackboard  
In wild and mute despair;  
He sees up there in bold relief  
A math. examination,  
But to work out what's written there  
Would puzzle all creation.  
He boldly starts on Number One,  
And finds he cannot do it,  
Then works awhile on Number Two,  
But cannot quite see through it.  
He tries in vain Three, Four, and Five,  
Then comes to this conclusion:  
Examinations are a bore,  
And "two-fives" a delusion,

And here is a "Scene after Tattoo:"

They snagged a little duck  
Down by a running brook,  
And brought him to the building in a sack,  
And put him in the hall,  
To make fun for all,  
But he wouldn't give us any of his quack.  
  
In the hall he felt all right,  
He looked toward the light,  
Then slowly shoved his bill into a crack;  
He then shook his little tail  
As contented as a snail;  
But he wouldn't give us any of his quack.  
  
A reckless youngster small  
Made a rash into the hall,  
And quickly seized his drakeship by the back  
He took him to the stair  
And let him rest on the air,  
For he wouldn't give us any of his quack.  
  
Then Jasper rose in haste,  
Strapped his sword about his waist,  
And of sticking to his duty showed no lack;  
For he, mounting to our floor,  
Sung "Turn out!" in a roar,  
But his answer was a manufactured quack.  
  
The fourth class went below,  
Except those who didn't go,  
And some others who decided to keep back;  
And all who kept not still  
Had a tour of "extra drill,"  
So our pleasure only ended in a quack.

And a little further on, under [the heading of "Report," we have the moral:

What is it that makes the brave grow pale?  
What is it that makes the mighty quail?  
What is it that keeps us from the old fort?  
It is that well-known word "Report!"  
  
What is it that doth so many scare?  
Who is it that makes the middy swear?  
What is it with power to spoil our sport?  
It is that single word "Report!"  
  
What is it that keeps us from a fight?  
What is it that keeps us from a "fight?"  
What is it that cuts our oats so short?  
It is that magic word "Report!"

We find in the volume two poems of sentiment. One, "The Gay Little Middy," is the production of a Newport belle, who tells us:

Then we walked and we talked  
'Til the sun had long set,  
And the sweet words he spoke  
I shall never forget.  
  
As a bird I was happy,  
And I guess so was he,  
My gay little middy,  
Stealing kisses from me.

The other is entitled, "Meditative Lover," 3 to 4 P.M., Sunday, and is as follows:

I kissed her, tho' perhaps 'twas wrong;  
For she was neither kith nor kin—  
Need one do penance very long,  
For such a little sin?

I pressed her hand—that was not right—  
Why will girls have such wicked ways?  
'T was not for a minute quite,  
But in it there seemed months and days.

That moonbeams play queer pranks, I know,  
But sure I am, I saw her wink,  
Just when she softly bade me go—  
She really meant it, too, I think!

But after all it is no shame,  
She took the kiss—do midshipmen,

In such a case, deserve the blame?—  
I wonder dare I call again?

At the end of the volume we have blank leaves for autographs "Mark Your Linen," autographs "Last Cruise," and autographs "Foreign Stations," each introduced with an appropriate illustration. The volume concludes with the "Naval Academy Alphabet," and a dictionary of terms used at the Academy. The work is furnished, bound in blue cloth, at \$4, and in full Russia leather binding, at \$6, each copy being put up in a neat pasteboard box for mailing.

#### THE LIFE SAVING SERVICE.

MR. SUMNER A. KIMBALL, General Superintendent of the United States Life Saving Service, has submitted his annual report of the operations of that service for the last fiscal year. The reports of the superintendents of the several districts show that there have been during that year 134 disasters to vessels within the limits of the operations of the service. On board these vessels there were just 1,500 persons. The estimated value of the vessels was \$1,986,744, and that of their cargoes \$1,306,588, making a total valuation of \$3,293,332. The number of lives saved was 1,461, and of those lost 39. Shipwrecked persons numbering 388 were sheltered at the stations, and the total number of days shelter afforded them was 963. The total amount of property saved was \$1,718,647, and the amount lost \$1,579,685. The number of disasters resulting in total loss to vessels and cargoes was 34. On nearly every occasion of disaster aid of some sort was rendered by the crews of the stations either in succoring the shipwrecked or saving property and upon 50 occasions by the use of the life saving apparatus an aggregate of 871 persons were landed. There were four fatal disasters within the limits of the operations of the service in 1876, and by an odd coincidence the same number has occurred during the present year. The four wrecks referred to have involved the loss of thirty-nine lives, and although this number exceeds that of the preceding year by seventeen, it is gratifying to be able to state that in no instance is the sad result referable to the conduct of the life saving crews, or to any defects in the methods of deliverance employed by the Government. It fact this dismal record is solely one of men perishing by their own imprudence or ill fortune, and it is mitigated by the consideration that all possible efforts were promptly and powerfully made in their behalf by the Life Saving Service. The disasters alluded to are those of the *Circassian*, the *Massachusetts*, the *Amerique*, and the schooner *Margaret and Lucy*.

Under the head of Examination of Keepers and Crews, Superintendent Kimball says: "The condition of District No. 5 the Board of Examiners found quite unsatisfactory. Of the eight keepers examined five were incompetent, and of the surfmen more than one fifth were unqualified for their duties. At many places evidences of neglect and indifference were abundant, and the new apparatus in some cases had not been arranged and put in order for use, although it had been for some time at the station. The board endeavored to impress the keepers and crews with a full sense of the grave responsibilities resting upon them and to stimulate them to efforts in acquiring proficiency in their duties. The examiners also made diligent inquiry into the causes of this unfortunate condition of the district. They found that it resulted generally from an utter misconception on the part of the superintendent of his duties and responsibilities, and that this misconception had been formed in his mind by the efforts and representations of certain small local politicians, some of them holding petty official positions, who impudently claimed to represent the wishes of the department, and had contrived, by adroitly practising on his fears, to secure the nomination and retention of incapable persons at the stations both as keepers and surfmen, thereby producing a general maladministration of affairs in the district."

#### REVOLT OF CHILIAN CONVICTS.

THE Secretary of the Navy has received a despatch from Commander Frederick Rodgers, commanding the U. S. S. *Adams*, giving an account of an outbreak in the Chilian penal colony of Punta Areros in Patagonia. Commander Rodgers says:

On the evening of November 12 I passed Cape Virgin and anchored for the night at Sarmiento Bank to await the tide. At about 10 o'clock P. M. a steamer was discovered approaching us from the westward, making signals with rockets and blue lights. She passed within hail and asked for a boat to be sent on board, reporting at the same time that a revolution had just occurred at Sandy Point, and that she had some refugees on board. I immediately sent an officer on board, who returned with Captain Wilson, of the German steamer *Memphis*, from Valparaiso to Montevideo. He reported that some distance to the westward of Sandy Point he had been boarded by the English vice-consul at Sandy Point, who had informed him that a mutiny of the entire garrison had broken out at Sandy Point, and that the convicts had been liberated and all sorts of violence and outrages were being committed, and warned Captain Wilson not to stop at Sandy Point. He, however, determined to do so.

Upon approaching Sandy Point, the *Memphis* was boarded by a boat containing the captain of the port, in irons, three of the mutineers (soldiers), two convicts, and the three other persons, one of whom was a government official. Captain Wilson disarmed the soldiers, and took all the occupants on board. While hoisting the boat the *Memphis* was fired at several times from the shore by the mutineers, who were in

possession of all the artillery as well as the small arms of the port. She was not struck, however. The *Memphis* then proceeded with all despatch toward Montevideo, and in doing so fell in with this vessel. Captain Wilson requested me to take the people from Sandy Point on board, that they might return. I accordingly did so, and took also the boat which belonged to the captain of the port. Upon receiving the persons on board, I placed the three soldiers and two convicts under guard, and then discovered from the statement of the captain of the port that the mutineers in the boat had been sent from shore with him as prisoners to bring or decoy the steamer *Memphis* into an anchorage under the penalty of being shot with the result above stated. It appears that the plan of the mutineers was to take possession of the *Memphis* and go off in her, or, failing in that, to take the Pacific S. N. Co.'s steamer, then about due from Valparaiso. I got under way with all despatch for Sandy Point, hoping to reach this place before dark on the 13th. A strong westerly gale, however, prevented my getting further than Gregory Bay, where I was obliged to anchor for the night. I got under way on the morning of the 14th, and reached this place, Sandy Point, at 6:30 in the afternoon of that day. On the way up the guns were loaded, as well as the small arms, and all preparations made for any emergency. Upon my arrival here I found the Chilian corvette *Magellanes*, already here, having come down from Skyring Water, where she had been employed surveying. I went on board her and found the Governor of this colony there, and have since gathered the following particulars of what seems to be the most terrible mutiny on record, so far as numbers are concerned. It appears that about midnight of Sunday, November 11, the people of the town were alarmed by the discharge of artillery and fire arms. The first murder committed seems to have been that of the captain of the company of soldiers, numbering about one hundred, who were regular artillery troops. They mutilated the captain in the most horrible manner, and then opened fire with several pieces of artillery upon the governor's house, directly in front of the barracks. The governor upon making his appearance was knocked on the head and left insensible. He, however, recovered after some time and made his escape to the country. His family also escaped, almost naked, to the woods. The mutineers then released the convicts; they altogether numbered nearly 200, armed with Winchester and Spencer rifles. During Monday, November 12, the mutineers seem to have committed the most incredible excesses in the way of wanton killing, burning and sacking. On Tuesday, November 13, the mutineers deserted the place and took to the country, carrying with them all the public funds and much private property. The last heard from them was to the effect that they numbered 94 armed men and were about two days' march from here on the way to Santa Cruz. As last act of destruction the mutineers burned all the public property and a number of stores; in fact, the best part of the town is in ashes. Upon my arrival the streets were strewn with the dead bodies of the killed, thirty of which were gathered up. Most of the killed were soldiers who had been shooting each other indiscriminately. It is estimated that at least fifty people were killed; many dead and wounded were burned in the buildings. The hospital was burned with five wounded men in it. Since the time of my arrival the peaceable citizens, particularly women and children, have been gradually coming in from the mountains, where they have been concealed for several days, and have suffered very much. The town is now guarded by a force landed from the *Magellanes*, and is comparatively quiet. Upon my arrival here, I immediately made offers to the Governor of any assistance he might require, for which he seemed very much gratified, and stated he thought the presence of this vessel of great importance at this time. He also thanked me for the measures I had already taken. The Governor has requested me to remain here for the present, until he feels secure, and I have told him I would do so. The only force at his disposal is the crew of the *Magellanes*, and there are a number of persons to be looked out for. Reinforcements are expected from Valparaiso in about ten days, when the mutineers will be pursued.

As to the cause of the revolt at this place there seems to be as yet no reliable information; it seems to have been sudden and entirely unanticipated. It is reported and believed that the padre or priest of this colony has had much to do in instigating it, he being an enemy of the Governor, and he is now one of the prisoners confined on board the *Magellanes*. In the destruction of property here not the slightest regard was paid to any nationality. A 12 pounder was fired clean through the English consulate, and the vice consul himself was pursued and fired at a number of times; he, however, escaped in his own boat. There are no American citizens or subjects of the United States here. The coal mines have not been worked for some time, and there is no coal to be had here; fortunately, there is a small quantity of Government coal here, and the Governor kindly allowed me to have fifty tons, which I have taken on board. The general health of the officers and crew continues good. We should be in Valparaiso by the last of November, notwithstanding the unanticipated detention here.



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**VALLEY FORGE.**—A correspondent of the Philadelphia *Daily Times* says: "The Centennial returns of Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill, Trenton, Bennington, Oriskany, and Saratoga, have all been appropriately celebrated, and why not celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the Valley Forge on the 22d of February, 1878, on that hallowed ground. That is the place of all others for the great national monument to Washington and American liberty, quoting the eloquent words of Lossing the historian, 'And if there is a spot on the face of our broad land wherein patriotism should delight to pile its highest and most venerated monument, it should be in the bosom of that little vale on the banks of the Schuylkill. Let the contemplated structure in the city of Washington be built on this memorable ground, and thither would go the pilgrims of future generations to view the field that was consecrated by the suffering of those that achieved our independence. Let it rise higher than the monument contemplated by Vanderbilt for Central Park, let its niches be represented by soldiers of all arms of the Continental Army with a place for Lafayette, Steuben, Greene, Wayne, Hamilton, Knox, and the other generals that shared the hardships of the suffering soldiery. Let it be surmounted by the Statue of him that was 'first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen!' whose benign countenance would catch the early rays of the sun 'in its coming' till brass and granite shall have mouldered in the dust.' The Centennial is to be celebrated accordingly, and invitations have been sent to President and Mrs. Hayes, Cabinet officers, all the State officers and prominent officers of the Army and Navy. Among the military organizations invited are the Boston Ancient Artillery, the New York 7th regiment, the 5th Maryland, Chicago Zouaves, Norfolk Blues and Charleston Blues.

A DESPATCH dated Panama, December 27, states that Lieut. Wyse, of the French Navy, and his party of explorers returned from Chepo and the examination of the Bayano during the night of the 21st December, and expect to leave again for Chepigan on the 24th, or immediately after the arrival of M. Lacharme from Cartagena. The examination of the Bayano route has tended to confirm the report of Commander Selfridge that a tunnel over seven miles long would be necessary in opening the canal at that point.

### U. S. ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1878.

Office, No. 245 Broadway, New York.

SUBSCRIPTION, SIX DOLLARS A YEAR.

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### THE HURON COURT OF INQUIRY.

THE spirit with which the great majority of naval officers have received the findings of the Court of Inquiry in the *Huron* case, is a clear indication, to our minds, that such a disaster is not soon likely to occur again, and that even out of that calamity will come good fruits. The prompt action of the court, and its findings, stern but just, will strengthen the confidence of the people in the naval service, and raise it in their estimation. A single failure, lamentable as may be the loss of life resulting from it, is not a matter of alarm: the only well-founded popular alarm would come from endeavoring to cover up the failure from just censure. It is when railroad jury verdicts of "nobody to blame" are introduced into military and naval criticisms that there is just ground for popular uneasiness.

There is much also in the findings of the Court of Inquiry which, rightly understood, reflects credit on the officers and men of the *Huron*, and on our naval service. The directness with which the court fixed the responsibility for the grounding and the loss of the *Huron*, brings into stronger light its words of vindication and praise. We find it said in the report, for example, "that the lookouts were stationed and vigilant; that nothing was omitted which could be done to save life and property after the vessel grounded; that the conduct of the officers and crew was admirable, cool and obedient to orders to the last; that officers and crew testify that they have no complaint to make against any of the surviving officers and crew of the *Huron*, and nothing to lay to the charge of any officer or man on the occasion of the loss or with regard thereto." The very high praise accorded in these words has gained enormous force from the fidelity with which the court discharged its duty in declaring why the vessel was lost—it has the value of that discrimination which seeks nothing to extenuate and nought to set down in malice.

It is fair, also, to insist that one reason why the wreck of the *Huron* caused so profound a popular sensation is the rarity of bad seamanship in the Navy. Years pass without the cry "somebody blundered"—and this very fact concentrates unusual attention on a disaster produced by professional fault. Our Navy is accustomed to receive continuous eulogy, because it is accustomed to deserve it. During the war of the rebellion, the Navy was almost uniformly successful—most rarely did even a temporary reverse overtake it, so that the popular confidence in this branch of the Service became, as it deserved to be, unbounded. The duties of the Navy during the dozen years since the war, have been performed with a degree of skill which has continued that popular confidence. But in the Army the different condi-

tions that prevail render adverse criticism much more frequent, both within and without the Service. Compare, for example, the frequency of Courts-martial with those of naval courts. The necessity of fixing the responsibility for the lack of soldiership, in any particular instance, is as imperative for the needs of the Service as that of fixing the responsibility for the lack of seamanship, while the greater variety of active service makes the former instances more frequent. During the Civil war temporary displacements of high officers from command for single blunders or evidences of incapacity on single occasions occurred in dozens of cases; but the same is true in the military service of other nations. Some officers came out of their temporary cloud to be honored in subsequent service, while others, in the hard fortune of war, perished on the field of their fault, without the opportunity to retrieve what was perhaps the solitary want of soldiership in a long and noble career.

The American people cannot have failed to reflect that it is the excellence of the naval service, as a whole, which makes any failure so startlingly prominent. We are firmly persuaded that the frank and firm way in which the Court of Inquiry has acted in the case of the *Huron* will have its effect on the deliberations of Congress. It has utterly disarmed any attack that might be made on the Service as a whole, in relation to the *Huron*, by its thorough investigation and its discriminating decision. We believe, also, that this course was best for the officers on whose single, fatal failure, the court was compelled to fasten its censure; for its action has been followed by the inevitable reaction of generous sympathy for those who can no longer speak for themselves. The strongest and most skilful of soldiers and sailors are not equally strong and skilful at all hours; and now that the true lesson of the *Huron* has been enforced upon the living, there will be unrestricted scope for only kindly and respectful memories of the dead.

### PROMOTION IN THE ARMY.

It is generally conceded that something will be done during the coming session of Congress, looking towards a reorganization of the Army. Whatever that something may be, it is to be hoped that no measure will be considered which does not tend to increase its efficiency. If our legislators believe that an Army of 25,000 is adequate to the needs of the country, they must concede the great necessity of raising so small a force to its highest standard. That many things could be done which would aid in effecting this, no one familiar with the Army can deny. One thing we need is more healthy laws on the subject of promotion. In times of peace promotion is so notoriously slow, that there is little or no inducement for ambitious young men to enter the Army.

The reduction of the Army in 1870 left a large number of officers to be absorbed. Many at that time about to be promoted saw what was almost within their grasp snatched from them, and for years they have continued in the same grade, waiting for the expected advancement. Worse than this, brave officers with the best of records were at that time overslaughed by transferring into one corps juniors who had gained rapid promotion in another. Staff positions which, before the war, were filled by transfer from the Line for meritorious service, have been given largely to civilians, thus taking away a great incentive to faithful service, and one of the greatest aids to promotion.

All these things have acted as a perfect drag upon the Army. Before the war, when the slowness of promotion was common talk, the rate of advancement was so much more rapid than now, that we wonder any complaints should have then been made. A slight comparison will substantiate the truth of this statement. The average time to become a captain of artillery before the war (in which arm promotion, as a rule, is slower than in any other), was 12 years 7 months; the average time to advance from a 2d to a 1st lieutenancy, 3 years 6 months. These data are taken from all the artillery officers now on the active list, appointed and promoted before the war. A reference to the last Army Register will show that the average length of service of the ranking 1st lieutenants of the different artillery regiments is 15 years; of the five ranking 2d lieutenants, 7 years 11 months. The oldest 1st lieutenant of artillery served during

the entire war, and has been nearly 18 years in the Service; the oldest 2d lieutenant nearly ten. If we take some of the infantry regiments, there will be found still longer services among the 2d lieutenants, some of whom have been in this one grade nearly twelve years, and under the present laws must wait some time yet before being promoted. While these officers will have to remain longer as 2d lieutenants than it took before the war to become captains, they see some who entered the Service from five to ten years after them, rank them. This cannot be helped, for those who have suffered in the past, but it ought to be rendered impossible for the future. There should be at least something like equality in promotion, and this can only be secured by establishing a law that after a certain length of service in any one grade, an officer shall be entitled to advancement to the next higher. How long a service in any one grade should be required before advancement is, of course, a matter for debate. Congress has provided that in the Engineer and Ordnance Corps after 14 years' continuous service an officer shall be promoted a captain.

Such seems a very fair period. Supposing, however, Congress should pass a law that after eight years' continuous service as a 2d lieutenant, every officer should be promoted a first lieutenant, after 16 years' service a captain, after 24 years' continuous service a major, the effect would be immense on the Army's efficiency. Such a law would do justice to a small number of officers, who, from no fault of their own, have been exceedingly unfortunate. It would require but a small extra appropriation; an increase of \$6,000 to the appropriation bill for the present year would suffice; and in future years probably no extra appropriation would have to be made, as the circumstances which have operated to make promotion so slow, are not liable to arise again. Every officer upon entering the Service would then know what he might certainly expect. Add to this a law of compulsory retirement, similar to that in the Navy, and much will have been done to improve the spirit of the Service.

THE Washington correspondent of the New York *Herald*, Dec. 7, says:

An attempt has been made to represent the House Committee on Military Affairs as proposing to decrease the Army and make changes in its organization injurious to its efficiency. This is entirely incorrect. General Banning, the chairman of the committee, has been for some time in communication and correspondence with the chief officers of the Army, and the committee is not only very fully in possession of their views, but, as will be seen, when they produce their report, is guided in its conclusions by their advice. The report will advise a moderate increase of the rank and file, such as the heads of the Army themselves wish, and the changes in the organization, intended to produce greater efficiency at less cost, are all or almost all in accord with the views of Generals Sherman, Sheridan, and other general officers. The committee is not, as has been pretended, hostile to the Army, but the contrary, and General Banning, the chairman, has maintained constant friendly relations with leading officers, and has sought information and advice from them at every step and on every question which the committee has considered.

The correspondent of the New York *Tribune* says of the bill prepared by the House Committee on Military Affairs:

This measure proposes a thorough reorganization of the staff of the Army, but as one member of the committee puts it, "The bayonet will not be hurt much." Members of the committee say that the investigation which has been made into the subject shows that the staff would not be in much better condition for actual service now than it was in 1861 should a war break out; that the staff is large enough to govern the combined armies of Russia and Germany, but is strangely inefficient. The abuses in the staff corps they say extend to the smallest branches of the Service. It not unfrequently happens now that a paymaster is sent to pay from three to seven men, and that his own salary for the time he is engaged in this duty is nearly equal to that of the entire force which he pays. Young blood is driven away from the Army, and enters private occupations, simply because the staff as at present organized presents no prospect of promotion from the ranks. It is very evident from what the members say, that the bill to be introduced will provide for a very large reduction of the staff of the Army, but it is doubtful whether the committee, in view of the votes on the subject already taken in the House, will attempt any great reduction in the number of enlisted men.

The New York *Sun* says:

The infantry regiments will be consolidated into twelve, possibly fourteen. The Quartermaster and Commissary Departments will be consolidated, and the Judge-Advocate's corps will be wiped out. Officers who are placed on staff duty will hold no higher rank and receive no greater pay than they would if they were with their regiments.

We learn that the intention is to report a bill reducing the number of the infantry regiments without decreasing the rank and file, thus increasing the

size of companies. Inducements will then be offered to officers to resign by offering them a year's pay for every five years' service. A "benzine board" will be organized to dispose of superfluous officers. It is also proposed to consolidate the Commissary and Quartermaster Departments. There will be a long struggle before such a bill can be adopted, if at all, and this much only seems to be reasonably well settled that there will be no decrease of the rank and file this session of Congress, and no refusal to vote necessary appropriations for the support of the Army, such as it may be. "For this, much thanks."

WITHIN the past few days Italy has lost two of her most renowned modern soldiers, King Victor Emmanuel and General La Marmora. The King was a very brave and dashing soldier, who better deserved his military laurels than many royal campaigners who have nominally directed greater armies, and have been present at more famous battles. Had he been born peasant instead of prince he might none the less, with circumstances to favor him, have risen to the head of the armies of Italy.

A cable despatch from Florence, Italy, announces the death, after a long illness, of General de la Marmora, of the Italian army, and the most conspicuous Italian since Cavour. He was born November 17, 1804, reared in the Academia Militare of Turin, and entered the army of King Carlo Alberto as lieutenant of cavalry. At the disastrous battle of Novara in 1849, which forced the abdication of that sovereign, La Marmora acquired the reputation that he has since steadily borne—that of a brave and stubborn, but incompetent fighter. In 1855 he was sent with 15,000 troops to the Crimea. He took part in the campaign of 1859 against Austria, and, after the peace of Villafranche, reappeared prominently in Italian politics as prime minister and generalissimo, and had another opportunity soon after to manifest his incapacity at Custoza. He subsequently printed a pamphlet at Florence to defend himself against the attacks of the Prussian staff. General de la Marmora was of late years very unpopular with his countrymen on account of the persistency with which he adhered to his belief in the French alliance, and he was a few years ago mobbed in Florence.

THE Secretary of War received, Jan. 8, the report of Colonel G. Barnard and Lieutenant-Colonel H. G. Wright, of the Corps of Engineers, designated by him as a board to proceed to Port Eads, Louisiana, and make a personal and thorough examination of the work now in progress under the direction of Captain Eads, for the improvement of the South Pass of the Mississippi. The report sets forth that there has been secured through the South Pass of the Mississippi River to deep water in the Gulf of Mexico, a depth of twenty-two feet of water in a channel not less than 200 feet in width, which entitles Captain Eads to the second instalment under the act of Congress, he having fully complied with the conditions prescribed by said act. They were directed to inquire, among other things, whether the jetties and auxiliary works constructed or in process of construction were permanent, sufficient and thoroughly substantial, within the meaning of said act of Congress?

THE news from the European war this week comprises two events of the highest importance: one is the preliminary arrangement for an armistice, while the other is a Russian victory at Shipka Pass. The following is the Grand Duke Nicholas's telegram to the Emperor, dated Jan. 9: "I am happy to congratulate your Majesty upon a brilliant victory gained this day. General Radetzky has, after desperate fighting, captured the whole Turkish army defending the Shipka Pass, consisting of forty-one battalions, ten batteries and one regiment of cavalry. Prince Mirsky has occupied Kezanlik. General Scobeleff holds Shipka."

CONGRESS met again, after its holiday recess, on Thursday, Jan. 10, and among the earliest resolutions offered in the Senate were two by Mr. Conkling to inquire and report upon the restoration of Major Runkle to the Army and of Surgeon Draper to the Navy.

THE St. Louis *Globe Democrat* noticing our article of Dec. 22, on the "Question of Promotion," says: "The JOURNAL insists that an Army retirement bill is very much needed, and certainly the facts make such a demand seem reasonable. Nothing connected with the welfare of the Army can be a matter of indifference to the people; the whole tone of recent legislation has been unfavorable to the Army, and Congress has done

a great deal to discourage the men who wear our uniform. It would be worth while for it to show that its zeal for retrenchment had no leaven of malice in it, and it could not do this better than by providing for the retirement of officers who are entitled to it."

GENERAL HANCOCK and Stanley, and Colonel Whipple, the board appointed to determine what is a battle, within the spirit of the regulations, are now in session at the Army Building, New York, debating that knotty question.

It has been suggested that if the bottom of a man-of-war were faced with indiarubber of considerable thickness the pressure of the water outside would effectively close the hole made in the hull by a plunging projectile which had forced its way through the decks. The suggestion is to be submitted to a practical test on board the *Skylark*, Portsmouth, England. The head of an iron tube will be closed with rubber 8 inches in thickness, and so made perfectly water-tight. The sealed end will be sunk in the water until the rubber occupies a position analogous to that which it would occupy if attached to the hull of a ship below the load-line. The bow gun of the *Skylark* will then be depressed until the rubber can be sighted down the tube, and a 64-pounder shot will be fired through it. Should the water fail to enter the tube, the rubber will be known to have performed its work by closing up the shot-hole. The conditions, however, are only approximate, as the iron skin of a ship would, on penetration, be probably so jagged as to keep the aperture open for the inward rush of water.

IN a letter from Washington to the New York *Times*, Grace Greenwood, says: There are now, I believe, about a dozen ex-Confederate generals in the United States Senate. On the whole they are interesting men, and not wanting in impressive presence. No Southern heroes are. About them there is a composed and melancholy consequence which our more commonplace military men have never attained to. The "lost cause" adds a last tragic grace to the dignity of bravery and high breeding. They wrap themselves in it as in a mantle. It may be sombre, but it is royal, like the "inky cloak" of Hamlet. They have less fussy conceit than some of our heroes, and more quiet assurance—taking homage coolly and as a matter of course. I once met on the summit of the Righi a great Union general, who seemed in doubt whether the matutinal crowd had come out to see him or the sun rise. Now a Confederate hero would have had no doubt on the subject.

THE Arizona *Miner*, of Dec. 21, says: Among other investigations while in the East, Capt. W. H. Hardy inspected the telephone, and tells us that it is not only the most wonderful, but one of the most simple inventions of the age, and at the same time, one of the most useful. It is now being used everywhere in the Eastern cities, instead of the telegraph on all private lines, because it requires no skill to operate it. Anyone who can speak and hear, can send or receive messages by the telephone. So simple is the telephone in construction, that school boys, at the East, are erecting them from one room to another with no better appliances than oyster cans with the heads out for cups, a piece of twine for a wire, and tough paper instead of the thin metallic plates, used in the regular instruments. The Capt. tells us that these simple machines will convey articulate sounds quite a distance without battery or electricity, other than what the cord gathers from the air.

THE Japanese have followed our Christian example in dealing with their rebellion. Our minister, Mr. Bingham, reports that the court convened at Nagasaki under special orders to try the captured rebels concerned in the late Satsuma revolt closed its labors on the 30th of October; that 38,163 persons were tried, and that of these 295 were acquitted, 35,918 were pardoned, 20 were fined, 117 were deprived of rank at Shisoka (Samurai or sword bearers), 1,793 were condemned to imprisonment with hard labor for terms varying from thirty days to ten years, and 20 were adjudged to suffer decapitation. The moderation and forbearance of the Japanese government so contrary to the customary Asiatic mode of treating vanquished rebels, are highly commended by foreigners and natives alike.

AN effort will be made during the present Congress to transfer the Signal Service from the War Department to the Treasury Department, placing it under the Coast Survey branch of the service. The subject of this proposed change was debated in the Forty-fourth Congress, but no active steps were taken to bring about the transfer. It is claimed by the advocates of the measure, that apart from the desirability of consolidating the Coast Survey and the Signal Service, a great saving in the management of the latter bureau can be effected.

THE anniversary of the battle of New Orleans was celebrated in that city, Jan. 8th, by a military procession composed of a battalion of the 13th Infantry, commanded by Captain Frederick E. De Courcy, marines and sailors from the war ships *Enterprise* and *Conqueror*, commanded by Lieutenant F. W. Nichols; Louisiana militia and various other military organizations. Salutes were fired by the Washington artillery and Louisiana field artillery, under Col. John Glynn. After the parade the federal and volunteer officers dined together.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor of the *ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL* does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications published under this head. His purpose is to allow the largest freedom of discussion consistent with propriety and good feeling.

## PIANO WIRE FOR SOUNDINGS.

To the Editor of the *Army and Navy Journal*:

SIR: I observe in your issue of Dec. 23, a communication from "W. N. J." in reference to Sir W. Thomson's application of the piano wire to soundings in comparatively small depths without stopping the vessel. While he recognizes the value of the method, your correspondent thinks the apparatus "too cumbersome for general use except on board the largest vessels." I think he is under a misapprehension as to the size of the reel. It is but 13 inches in diameter (see *Engineering*, vol. xx., p. 42), and rests upon a bed two feet long. Its bulk would not, it seems to me, be an objection to its use in even the smallest vessel. The whole apparatus could be stowed in a chest 3 ft. long, 1½ ft. wide, and 1½ ft. high, which could be carried on the poop just as similar chests are now carried.

The principle of Sir W. Thomson's method of measuring the depth is precisely the same as that of Capt. Ericsson (i. e. by the compression of a volume of air in a straight glass tube closed at the upper end). The difference between the two is that in Thomson's tube the compression is marked by chemical action, while in Ericsson's it is indicated by the height of the column of water retained in the tube by a valve in its lower end. The objections to Ericsson's tube, as stated by "W. N. J." are that the valve requires great care to keep it tight, and that the divisions become too close for accurate reading when the depth exceeds thirty fathoms. The valve leaks because when the sinker is being lifted the pressure exerted by the air on the inside of the tube becomes so great that a valve could hardly be constructed, which would prevent entirely the escape of the water; and if the water escapes the measurement will be in error. The other objection would be obviated by making the tube longer.

The great objection to Thomson's tube is that it is a chemical tube which requires preparation some time before the cast is made. Sir William himself recognizes the difficulty, and he has recently modified Ericsson's invention by introducing a valve in the upper end of the tube for the gradual escape of the air as the sinker is lifted to the surface.

I have devised a tube in which the objections to both Ericsson's and Thomson's tubes are removed. It consists of a glass tube bent back on itself so as to form two legs, one of which is closed. The air is compressed in the upper part of the closed leg, the compression being marked by the height of the column of water in that leg, the water flowing over as the sinker descends. When the tube is raised again the expanding air drives the water out of the open leg, and so the pressure is always the same inside and out. No valves are required, nor is any preparation necessary after the tube is graduated. When a cast has been made the tube is emptied and is then ready for another cast. I have tried this tube in depths of from 4 to 7 fathoms (the deepest water in this neighborhood), and its indications are perfect. I have also tried it by placing it in water under pressure (up to 24 atmospheres) with perfectly satisfactory results. Respectfully, etc.,

THEO. F. JEWELL, Lieut. Comdr., U. S. N.  
U. S. NAVAL ACADEMY, ANNAPOLIS, Dec. 30, 1877.

## POLITICAL INFLUENCE ON THE ARMY.

To the Editor of the *Army and Navy Journal*:

SIR: The interference of politicians excite a most baneful influence on the Army. The cases of embezzlement that occasionally arise, the numerous cases arising from excessive drunkenness and gambling that are tried by military courts are in a majority of cases committed by political appointees—the sons, nephews, or dependents of some Congressman, who has secured a commission for them to the detriment of the Service and disgrace of the profession.

The records of our Courts-martial for the past eight years, if exposed to the public, would astonish the entire community by the gross display of partiality and utter disregard of every sentiment of right and justice they manifest. Search the records of the proceedings of the Star Chamber or of the most arbitrary courts of Europe, as they existed two centuries ago, and no more flagrant wrongs will be brought to light than have been constantly committed during the past eight years, and are now of constant occurrence through the administration of military justice.

This state of affairs is owing principally to political interference. It is also owing to the constitution and procedure of Courts-martial which makes that influence easily exercised. A Court-martial has no power of punishment; they are a mere machine of the general commanding the military department; or in cases involving the dismissal of an officer, of the President of the United States. In the latter case the court finds the accused guilty of an offence for the commission of which the "Articles of War" distinctly awards the penalty of dismissal. The court performs their duty and execute the intention of the law as far as their authority allows, but they possess no power of punishment. The execution of the sentence rests with the President, and almost invariably where the offender is a political appointment interference is made in his behalf, the proceedings in his case are disapproved. He is thrown back on the Army to repeat the offence with like result. In this way the most abandoned characters may be continued in the military service. Notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of the Army officers through Courts-martial to rid themselves of the disgrace, political influence, stronger than the claims of

right and justice, forces them on the Army in defiance of the letter of the law and despite the remonstrance of the great body of officers.

Civilians often reproach us for the amount of drinking, gambling, and other vice prevalent in the Service. Now, this is much exaggerated, but it is useless to deny that flagrant cases of intemperance one way or another have arisen and still exist, but the civilians are themselves culpable. The Army, as a profession, have used their utmost influence to correct these vices, but all in vain. Their efforts have invariably been neutralized by the noxious influence of politicians. Every worthless man in the Army appears to have his political protector standing by him with shield broad enough to ward off the just sentence of the most solemnly constituted tribunal, and preserve him scathless from richly merited punishment.

Another evil arising from the constitution of military courts, and one of constant occurrence, is the detention of enlisted men in the guard house for months before their guilt or innocence is determined upon. Under our present system of forwarding general charges to the judge-advocate of the department, and then after trial sending the proceedings to the department commander for approval, men found innocent have been confined at hard labor under charge of the guard for the period of six months. The court has no authority to release them, and thus men whom the officers at the post know to be innocent are working every day before their eyes like, and in company with, convicted felons, until the verdict of their innocence may return from some distant city, with the approval of the commanding officer of the department, releasing them from unjust confinement and unmerited punishment.

The remedy for all this injustice is evident. Courts martial should be endowed with authority to enforce their findings and sentence subject to appeal in certain cases. This crying abuse has existed too long already. It is contrary to every sentiment of right and justice. It is opposed to every principle of common law or common sense, and is in direct antagonism to the humane spirit of our criminal law. I hope the JOURNAL will speedily lend the aid of its powerful influence to correct the evil.

"A."

## IRON SHIPS.

To the Editor of the *Army and Navy Journal*:

SIR: In the history of shipwrecks the most appalling horrors are those recorded of iron built vessels, while those affording the most remarkable instances of the rescue of life are known to be wooden vessels. More than a thousand iron ships and steamers built in Great Britain are recorded as "missing." They sailed and were never heard from afterward, having broken up in the sea without even striking the bottom. That no such catastrophe has yet happened to an American built iron vessel is a significant fact in favor of American iron shipbuilding as being more "protective" than British, however dangerous it may be. While it is true that an iron ship may be built seaworthy for the seas alone, it is demonstrably certain that iron vessels cannot be built, much less are they built, as capable of defence against collisions with rocks and reefs as wooden vessels. And to make this defect of material the more dangerous, iron vessels have a compass fatality which seems to insure their going ashore if there is the least opportunity. The compass fails of protection at the moment of direst need, and when the ill fated vessel strikes the bottom and pounds the sand, the clay, or the rock, the bottom of the vessel crushes in like an eggshell, and fails to protect the lives of those on board. Iron vessels may well be the hobbies of the enemies of "protection."

If one of the live oak sloops had gone ashore where the *Huron* did, she would not have instantly "bilged" and filled with water. Her solid wooden bottom and solid frame, throughout, would have pounded in defiance of the waves for many hours, and perhaps days; and at least would have lasted as long as any one could survive on board. The wooden hull might even have outlived the storm, and with the crew on board, been driven close ashore by the waves. If the water had been kept out of the vessel, this would have been the case without doubt. The guns would have been thrown overboard, the vessel lightened in every way, and washed inshore to a place of comparative safety for the crew. In the case of an iron vessel striking a reef and instantly breaking her bottom inward, there is no possibility of her being cast inshore by the waves. The water then fills the hold, and the vessel will not lift in the waves, but rests on the bottom and permits the seas to wash over and through her until she is completely broken up and the souls on board all lost. The vital necessity for the safety of life on board a wreck in a case like that of the *Huron* is for the protection given by the bottom of a strong, tight vessel, in keeping out the water, and successfully resisting the blows of the sea. Every shipwrecked sailor knows that an iron bottom gives scarcely a moment's protection, and no one experienced in the wrecking of iron vessels has any faith in their endurance when cast ashore in a storm. Ships cannot be fully entitled to be called "seaworthy" that are thus notoriously "unseaworthy." Every vessel that is built is almost certain to go ashore, strand, or strike bottom at some period of her existence. All vessels should be so built that these accidents will not necessarily be fatal to the lives of passenger and crews. It is this fatality that condemns the use of iron vessels.

The cruising ships of the Navy should not be built of unsafe materials to gratify the thoughtless and the selfish, who know nothing and care nothing about the safety of lives at sea.

It makes no difference where iron vessels are built, or who builds them, they are exceedingly dangerous constructions to be on board of in a gale of wind, or in the proximity of rock, reef, and shore. It is a mistaken notion that foreigners build better iron

vessels than our own builders do. In the first place, we have the best iron in the world for shipbuilding; in the next place, we have as complete building establishments, and workmen equal to any others in skill. The fault of the system should not be charged upon our home shipbuilders. A British necessity was the mother of the invention—a necessity which is not laid upon the United States. Iron shipbuilding is a nation's policy of Great Britain. It is a policy of independence. The principle is that British soil must produce the materials for vessels. The product of this soil is iron, and not wood. This is the whole secret of the establishment of iron shipbuilding in Great Britain. The economy of the system is apparent, not real.

But even England buys and builds more wooden tonnage for her merchant fleet than she builds of iron, and is daily losing more tonnage than she restores. Our country has no occasion to follow her example. The American wooden merchant fleet is the safest in the world. Our naval fleets ought to be of like character, at least so far as cruising ships are concerned. Iron shipbuilding needs discounting in the public press. While it is not altogether a grand humbug, being British, it has greatly imposed on the American public. It has not, however, deceived competent judges of the suitability of materials for building ships. It need not deceive the Navy Department and Congress. The loss of the *Huron*, if the only example in our Navy, has demonstrated the folly and wickedness of trusting the lives of our brave defenders to the unprotecting bottoms of iron ships. This is the lesson of the *Huron's* loss.

WM. W. BATES.

## LETTER FROM CHIEF ENGINEER KING.

To the Editor of the *Army and Navy Journal*:

SIR: In your Journal of Jan. 5 I have read an extract, copied from the London *Naval Chronicle*, purporting to be from my report on "European Ships of War;" it is as follows:

"Mr. King gives very full details of our ships of war, and speaks in very high terms of the value of our fleet, finding, however, that our efforts have not yet culminated in a perfect war ship. When we have succeeded in attaining this much to be desired consummation, he thinks his own Government ought to copy us. Meantime, unless we misinterpret him, he advises his countrymen not to spend any money in the construction of ships the type of each of which will be probably superseded."

No such lines or words appear in the book, nor can any such inferences be drawn therefrom, and, as the article is misleading, I beg the favor of correction. The following paragraphs in my report, under the head of Conclusions, page 254, is doubtless that to which the writer referred:

If, after our Civil War, we had gone on building armored ships designed for sea-going purposes, each succeeding vessel would have been superseded in offensive and defensive powers by productions on the other side of the Atlantic. The result would have been an antiquated armored fleet, for it has been seen that the power of the gun and the weight and thickness of armor have continued to increase; which, together with additional mechanical appliances, has made each succeeding ship built, an improvement over preceding types, and even yet no law of finality seems to be reached either in regard to the weight and power of the gun or the thickness and weight of the armor. With the Sheffield Works promising armor plates of still greater thickness, and Herr Krupp and Sir William Armstrong proposing guns of 150 tons each, it would be unsafe to regard the limit as having been reached, and unwilling to accept even the last productions as the future types. In view of the value given to small fast vessels by the invention of the self-moving torpedo and the risks to be encountered from this terrible weapon, as well as the ram, it is not probable that hereafter any war vessel will be built larger or as large as the *Invincible*; but it is reasonable to anticipate heavier guns in less numbers mounted on vessels of smaller dimensions. Considering these facts and conclusions, the enormous cost and length of time necessary to build an armored sea-going ship in this country, and the further fact that in Europe the advocates for abandoning arm or altogether are increasing, any administration may well pause before it sanctions the expenditure for such a vessel, of three or four millions of dollars.

Turning now to the policy of maintaining an efficient cruising fleet for the police of the seas, for the training of men, for the purpose of exhibiting the American flag in foreign ports, and especially in harbors of semi-barbarous countries where they can scarcely realize the existence of a force unless it be visibly present to their gaze, for the repression of piracy and slavery, and for the punishment of offending savage tribes, the ship is the distant representative of our national power, and it should have no superior of its type belonging to any other country. With the view, therefore, of reconquering and adding to our unarmored fleet, the time is near at hand, if not already present, for reaching judicious conclusions as to the immediate future types of vessels. We are now at liberty to take advantage of the results of the most expensive and exhaustive experiments made by foreign powers in the construction of ships, of machinery of various kinds for naval purposes, and of manufacture of weapons.

The Italian ships *Italia* and *Lepanto*, each to have a load displacement of about 13,000 tons, and dimensions about 393 feet 8 inches by beam of 71 feet 4 inches; with an indicated horse power of 18,000 and an estimated speed of 16 knots the hour; to mount guns 50 feet in length, with which to propel projectiles 6,000 lbs. in weight by the explosive power of 950 lbs. of powder, had not been laid down at the date the above paragraphs were written. Respectfully, etc.,

J. W. KING, Chief Engineer U. S. Navy.

U. S. NAVY-YARD, BOSTON, Jan. 8, 1878.

## HINTS FOR THE LINE.—NO. II.

To the Editor of the *Army and Navy Journal*:

SIR: Company fund to be expended under the direction of the company council.

The council to be composed of all officers present belonging to or attached to the company. The proceedings (items of expenditure, etc., etc.), after approval by Battalion or Post Commander to be read to the company by the 1st Sergeant.

No account current or other report to be made of the fund.

The fund to be expended for gardens, enlisted men's mess and amusements. When the company does not have access to a post library, a portion of the fund may be used for the purchase of books and news-

papers, but on return to a post the books and papers must be sold.

Regimental fund to be expended under the direction of regimental council. The proceedings, after approval by Regimental Commander, to be read to the men at headquarters. No account current or other report to be made of the proceedings.

The fund to be expended for pay of band, enlisted men's mess, instruments, gardens and amusements. When away from a post a portion of the fund may be used for purchase of books and newspapers, but on return to a post they must be sold.

Post fund to be expended under direction of post council. The proceedings, after approval by Post Commander, to be read to the troops at the post. No account current or other report to be made. Post fund to be expended for bakery, gardens, printing press, library, schools and amusements. The articles purchased by the post fund to be considered fixtures at the post, and to remain as long as the post is occupied. When a post is abandoned, the library and other post fund property to be sent at Government expense to the new post established in lieu of the one abandoned. If no new post is established, the property shall be sent to the nearest post to be used, but to be retained intact, to be sent to the first post established or reoccupied in the Department.

Troops leaving a post shall not take any post fund property or money value thereof. They shall only take their proportion of cash on hand after all debts are paid.

The above rules will give us handsome post libraries, and post funds out of debt.

Existing regulation at every movement of troops ruins the post libraries, bankrupts the post fund, and benefits no one.

The post librarian should receipt for and account for the books as for other Government property. Any officer or soldier who damages or fails to return a book should have the cost price stopped from his pay. At every post a two story building should be erected.

The lower floor, one large room for gymnasium, drill and lounging room for enlisted men, a second room for bowling alleys and billiard tables, a third room for day school for officers' and soldiers' children, and evening school for enlisted men.

The second floor, one room for officers' gymnasium and drill room, second room for officers' billiard room, a third room for post library and reading room, and should be sufficiently large and comfortable to be used during the same hours both by officers and enlisted men. Enlisted men should be encouraged to use the reading room, instead of taking books away from the library.

To obtain money for this building, use the money accumulated for the Soldiers' Home in Washington, and not needed for the support of that institution, giving it to the extreme frontier posts first; using yearly all the funds not needed for the Home until each post is supplied with the necessary building, after which divide the money among the post funds.

#### LINE.

#### A RELIC OF 1812.

THE Detroit Post reports the rediscovery by some local divers of a British war vessel sunk in Rouge River during the war of 1812, and reports the story of her adventures as told by Mr. A. D. Bodeneau, formerly a 2d lieutenant in the 1st Michigan Cavalry, though now a man 72 years of age: It was during the early part of the summer, Mr. B. thinks, that the armed schooner attempted to pass up the Rouge. Her coming was kept as secret as possible by the British, but there were many friends of the Americans on the Canadian side, as well as occasionally a British sympathizer on this side, so that it was difficult to undertake any enterprise without its being foretold in advance. The informant in the present instance is understood to have been one Lebellan, who lived in Windsor and kept the ferry.

Slowly and confidently the vessel began to pick her way up the Rouge. The settlers thought she might only be coming in from Detroit River to cast anchor, but when the site where now stands the glass works was passed there could be no mistaking her hostile intentions. The inhabitants were few in number and poorly armed, so that they offered no resistance. It was not long, however, before it was excitedly whispered around that help was coming from Detroit. The rumor could scarcely be believed, so lately had the vessel appeared at the mouth of the Rouge that there had been no time to send word to the town, four miles distant. But ere the invader had reached a mile from Detroit River it was discovered by those on shore that she was not going to have it all her own way. Lebellan, the ferryman, had informed the people of Detroit of the expected invasion, and a company was organized for the emergency. Capt. Dequindre took command. He had one field piece and about 60 men, and as soon as the schooner was seen coming up the river the party started for the Rouge. The inhabitants of the latter place were, if anything, more surprised at the appearance of Capt. Dequindre's company on the scene than that of the schooner in the river. The crew on board little dreamed that preparations had been so promptly made to meet them. They were enjoying themselves on deck, as if on an excursion, relying with confidence on their four cannon to silence any opposition. The whole settlement was looking on the progress of the schooner with breathless suspense, for they fully expected her to be able to do as she pleased, while none knew but that her hold was filled with Indians, and that the Brownstown and Frenchtown massacres might be repeated.

The vessel was getting along smoothly. The bend in the river was reached, and, just as she was sheerling to make the turn, the report of a cannon in the ravine, not much more than 100 yards distant was heard. This was followed by three or four more, and as many holes

were punched in her hull near the water line. Not a musket shot was fired from her deck. The surprise was most complete. A few musket shots were fired by those on board, doing no harm, and there was a grand rush for the lifeboats. These were filled in a hurry, and the vessel was left to sink. She did so in a short time, with her entire equipment, not an article of consequence being taken off by the disheartened invaders, who lost no time in rowing to Detroit River and crossing over to Canada.

Capt. Dequindre was too highly elated at his success to attempt the capture of the British, at least that is the impression left on Mr. Bodeneau's mind, for the life-boats might have been sunk. The American force was sufficiently numerous to risk a battle, while the prompt manner in which they came to the succor of the people on the Rouge attested their courage, and their waiting for the enemy until he was within gunshot proves the coolness which their commander possessed. The casualties of the British were never known, but they suffered to some extent, for they were seen to place two or three disabled men in their small boats.

As may be imagined, great joy reigned at the "Yellow Banks"—the name then given the territory at the mouth of the Rouge—that day. Gratitude was heaped upon Capt. Dequindre and his brave volunteers, who returned to Detroit the same afternoon, and where an ovation awaited them for their gallant conduct.

The vessel remained sunk in the river for six or eight years, as near as Mr. Bodeneau can recollect, when an expedition came down from Detroit and raised her. And herein constituted the great disappointment of our modern divers. The expedition is believed to have been undertaken by the United States Government, being under the direction of Lieut. Brooks, an Army officer stationed at Fort Shelby, which stood where Whitney's Opera House is built. Capt. Ward—father of the late Capt. E. B. Ward—was the director of the wreckers. He took down a schooner and a lighter to the sunken vessel, and fastening her bow to a pile driven in the bank of the river, managed to float her stern. This fact accounts for the peculiar position in which Messrs. Leahy and Martin found the wreck. Mr. Bodeneau remembers of at least two cannon being recovered. He thinks, however, that two more were left on board, unable to be got at. But the wreckers under Capt. Ward took away everything of value that could be reached. Our informant says he remembers distinctly being scolded by Lieut. Brooks for attempting to get away with the cabin, which he and some other youngsters had made up their minds to convert into a chicken coop. That there are still articles of value on board the sunken vessel is very probable. It might not pay for the trouble, in a commercial sense, to recover them, but they would be precious to the antiquarian and help to throw light on the weird history of Detroit two generations ago.

#### MAGRUDER AND PILLOW.

A LOCAL correspondent of the San Francisco *Mail* contributes the following anecdote of the Mexican campaign in 1846-7, wherein Gen. Bankhead Magruder figures: "It was on the march from Puebla to the city of Mexico that Magruder, who had an artillery command, on halting for the night, in the midst of a pelting rain, noticed at some little distance some outbuildings, admirably adapted as a shelter for his command. To think was with him to act, and in a few minutes his men and horses were comfortably housed, and his pieces and caissons protected by tarpaulins from the storm. Scarcely had the gallant captain and his subalterns settled themselves in a snug corner before a welcome fire, when they were disturbed by the entrance of an aide-de-camp to the division commander, conveying the untimely order that Magruder's command should at once vacate, as the premises had been assigned to division headquarters. Now, the commanding officer was Gen. Pillow, who had already acquired a certain fame by digging the fosse of a fortified work on the wrong side of the parapet, and whose ever recurring errors of detail afforded to the Regulars under his command a fund of infinite jest. Magruder was equal to the occasion, and with a bland smile, a stare of non-recognition, and his own imitative lie, he addressed the aide he had seen every day for year: 'Thir, I do not know you; I never saw you before in my life. If Gen. Pillow wisheth to convey me any order let him do so in writing.' The astounded aide retired, and Magruder and his comrades again settled to their coffee and their fire. Shortly the jingle of spurs and the clang of sabres announced a new arrival, and, supported by his orderly, stalked into the circle the adjutant-general of the division, 'Capt. Magruder, these buildings have been assigned as division headquarters. Gen. Pillow demands that you shall vacate them immediately!' They were intimate friends, had been at West Point together, but Magruder failed to recognize the major. 'Thir, I do not know you. Let Gen. Pillow convey both order in writing.' 'Why, Magruder,' urged the major. 'Thir, I do not know you, was the polite response, and the discomfited chief of staff withdrew. A few minutes more passed by; coffee had been discussed, and now the jovial party were engaged in testing from the festive canteen a superior article of commissary whisky, when the clatter of hoofs, the hoarse voice of command, the rattle of many sabres, proclaimed the approach of the division commander and his retinue. Magruder and his lieutenants rose respectfully as the civilian general, in all his muddled and bedraggled pomp, entered their humble quarters. 'Capt. Magruder,' thundered Pillow, 'if in fifteen minutes your men and horses are not removed from these quarters I will give you an order that will surprise you, sir!' Magruder shuddered at the prospect, but, ever ready, fired the final shot: 'I beg pardon, general, you could give me no order that would surpriseth me, thir.'

**THE TELEPHONE IN WAR.**—At the United Service Institution, Dec. 21, Mr. Preece delivered a lecture on the telephone in its application to naval and military purposes. The chair was occupied by Major-General Lyons. Mr. Preece remarked that most people were under the delusion that the telephone transmitted sound in so loud a tone that it could be heard distinctly in a large room. Instead, however, of that being the case, the sounds were so faint that it was only by close application of the ear that a message could be heard. The telegraph had now become a necessity of the age, both in peace and war; in fact, no great military operations could be undertaken without its aid. Owing to the necessary mode of transmission telegraphic messages were peculiarly liable to error, but the telephone would obviate this by placing in the officer's hands an instrument capable of transmitting the actual words and tones of his correspondent. Distance was no object, provided the wires worked by the telegraph were not in immediate proximity. He himself had spoken across the Irish Channel from Holyhead—a distance of ninety miles—but Professor Bell had stated that 260 miles was the extreme distance attained by him. An illustration of the principles of air waves upon which the telephone was founded was given, and was followed by an elaborate explanation of the instrument itself, Mr. Preece stating that by means of it a sigh could be wafted "from India to the pole." In the "field" the best conditions for its working would be obtained, lines being laid in all directions undisturbed by extraneous influences. The words of command, moreover, would be uttered by the general, and the very tones in which they were spoken would be conveyed to his subordinate. No mistake, therefore, could possibly arise. The instrument was still in its infancy, but time alone was needed to prove its utility. Several experiments followed, all attended with more or less success, the sounds of a bugle being distinctly heard from a distant room in the building. In answer to questions from the audience, Mr. Preece said that as distance increased sounds grew fainter, and that probably, owing to "induction," a cable might now be laid across the Atlantic, as messages transmitted by several wires would probably come out in one sound. Major-General Lyons remarked that it only now remained for our engineers to perfect the instrument. Experiments must henceforth be made having that object in view, and he trusted they would succeed, to the great advantage of both Services.—*London Telegraph*.

**THE WESTERN SURVEYS.**—The various parties engaged in field work during the past summer, under Lieut. G. M. Wheeler, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A., in charge of the geographical surveys west of the 100th meridian, have returned to Washington and already begun the preparation of their reports from extensive notes and observations made in Colorado, Texas, Nevada, California, Oregon, and the Territories of New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana. The work during the past season has been a continuation of the topographical work of previous years, and the notes thus far made will enable the parties to prepare detailed maps covering an area of about 30,000 square miles. On account of a favorable season and the increased strength of the parties the explorations of 1877 have been more successful than during any previous year. A new feature of the survey will be a report upon the quantity of arable, arid, timber, grazing, and mineral lands examined during the season. Geological and zoological examinations were also made in various sections. A careful survey of Comstock lode both above and below ground, was made by Prof. John A. Church, E. M. A map of the surface has been finished, and the profile of the mining lodes, with plans of the separate levels and general longitudinal section of the entire vein have been begun. It is proposed to continue this branch of the survey until a complete history of mining operations, at this locality especially, shall be completed, including an underground examination of all the various openings by shafts, and especially the Sutro tunnel, now nearly completed. The party which was engaged near Lake Tahoe has completed the data for a special map of this interesting lake region. The number of main and secondary triangulation and other stations occupied exceeded that of any previous year. A temporary field office has been established at Ogden, U. T. Volume IV. (paleontology) has been issued, and volume II. (astronomy) will soon be ready. A number of maps have been issued during the year which have been found to be of great use, not only to the Government, but to those seeking homesteads on the Western frontier. The following named officers were in charge of parties: Lieuts. Bergland, Tillman, Symons, and Young, of the Engineer Corps; Lieuts. Birnie, Morrison, and Macomb, of the Army. Among the civilian assistants were Professors John A. Church, E. M., A. R. Conkling, H. W. Henshaw, and Dr. Kaup.

**M. O. L. L. U. S.**—At a stated meeting of the New York Commandery, Military Order L. L. U. S., held at Delmonico's on Wednesday evening, Jan. 2, Assistant Surgeon J. Savage Delavan was elected a member of the 1st Class and Mr. Feversy Bruyn Sharp a member of the 2d Class. Mr. Sharp is the eldest son of General George H. Sharpe, Commander of the Order. At a meeting of this Commandery, held Nov. 6, 1877, the following resolutions were adopted:

*Resolved*, That Companions of this Commandery, when residing, or on Army or Navy duty, within the corporate limits of the cities of New York, Brooklyn, and Jersey City, shall be classified and assessed as resident members.

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to endeavor to procure an amendment to the act of Congress, permitting officers of the Army to wear their Army Corps badges, by including permission for officers of the Army and Navy, the badge and ribbon of this Order.

*Resolved*, That Companion Brevet Major-General A. G. McCook, U. S. Vols., be requested to use his influence to procure the adoption of the amendment.

Generals G. H. Sharpe, James McQuade, M. T. McMahon, and J. B. Kidoo, and Colonel H. M. Porter were appointed such committee.

## THE NATIONAL GUARD.

**THE GENERAL STAFF.**—The fact that the efficiency of an army depends in a very great degree upon the organization of the general staff, and the qualifications of the officers composing it for their several positions, seems to be almost entirely ignored in our National Guard, and commissions in the staff corps are conferred without regard to military qualifications. The responsibility for this rests in part upon the system under which the National Guard exists, and in part upon the officers who have the power of appointment. Political influence is so potent in securing commissions to important and responsible positions in our National Guard that it may seem utopian to hope that the time will come when military qualifications are made a *sine qua non* for all commissions; and until the example is set by the highest authorities of the State it will be difficult to bring about a change in the practice of subordinates. It cannot be doubted that every position on the staff of our Commander-in-Chief, from adjutant-general to military secretary, should be filled by officers whose previous services render them familiar with the details and requirements of their positions. The appointment of civilians even in subordinate positions does not inspire confidence, and only degrades an office which should be highly honorable and might be bestowed as a reward for faithful service in other positions. The organization of our Government imposes upon each State the responsibility of maintaining the peace within its own borders, and the force placed at the disposal of the General Government is not sufficient to enable it to respond to calls upon it for local police duty, even were it desirable that it should do so. Outbreaks, such as disturbed the country last summer, may at any time occur, and every means should be adopted to increase the efficiency of the military forces of the several States in view of such a contingency. It will not do for us even in New York to forget that there is much in our military organization that requires correction, that we may "in peace prepare for war."

One serious defect of our staff system is the tendency to absorb all the staff departments in that of the Adjutant-General. It is an outgrowth of the system of making the Adjutant-General and the A. A. G.'s *ex-officio* chiefs-of-staff. The heads of departments should be, and in some cases are, men pre-eminently qualified for their positions, and able to administer them independently of the Adjutant-General's office. The appointment of men of acknowledged position and acquirements as the heads of the various departments, and placing them practically and actually in charge, would increase the efficiency of the administration, and would facilitate the procuring of necessary appropriations. It is greatly to be feared that had New York, last summer, been subjected to the same trial as was Pennsylvania, she would have found her transportation, commissariat, and hospital supplies entirely wanting—application, meanwhile, being made for them in vain to the Adjutant-General.

Another defect is that general officers have entire control of the appointment of their staff, including even departmental officers, the commissions being issued upon a "return" from the proper officer giving the particulars of the appointments. Although arranged in departments, and liable to assignment elsewhere on duty connected with their departments, staff officers are considered as belonging to their respective divisions, brigades or regiments (section 677 M. C.) Their term of office extends during the term of service of the officer appointing or until their successors are commissioned. In the Regular service a general officer has the privilege of selecting his personal staff, *i. e.* aides-de-camp, from the officers of the line of a certain rank. These accompany him in his changes of station; the other staff officers remaining with the command, and not being changed except by orders from competent authority; they also receive their promotions in their own departments. It is scarcely practicable to carry out such a provision in our National Guard. The interest of the service, however, demand that some obstacles be placed in the way of the appointment of incompetent officers. The creation of boards of examination to inquire into the qualifications of line officers elect has been very beneficial in obliging would-be officers to qualify themselves before they could be commissioned. A similar provision could with advantage be applied to appointees for staff positions. A staff board could be appointed in each two divisions for the examination of all officers appointed upon the staffs of the regiments, brigades and divisions within its jurisdiction. With competent examiners it would not be long before a very marked improvement would be made in the *morale* of the staff and an *esprit de corps* created.

The adoption of such a course in making appointments would interfere with the aspirations of some politicians of local strength; but has not the community the right to expect such action by its chief executive? The Commander-in-Chief, who ceasing to consider appointments upon his staff as so many perquisites to be bestowed upon members of his own political party alone, will institute some such reforms in the organization of the general staff as are indicated above, should be accorded high praise. Were the National Guard administered upon such principles it would soon rise superior to politics and occupy a position which would ensure for it the respect and affection of the people.

The qualifications and duties pertaining to the various positions in divisions, brigades and regimental staffs, will be treated hereafter.

**ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S REPORT, 1877.**—In submitting his annual report for the year 1877 General Townsend thus compliments the National Guard:

During my seven years' experience as Adjutant-General I have always entertained great confidence in the National Guard, and felt, as a whole, it could be relied upon to meet serious difficulties in the line of its duty; but, until this past summer, nothing had happened to test it fully in this respect, and what then occurred reassured me in that confidence. Although not fully equipped for a campaign, there was no faltering on the part of any organization in obeying the orders which called them into active service, whether at home or abroad, and in those instances where they were sent from their homes they moved with the greatest promptitude and alacrity, and performed their duty in an equally satisfactory manner.

That campaign, besides testing the National Guard in these respects so satisfactorily, also showed its defects. Some of these latter have been corrected by disbanding weak and inefficient organizations to make room for better ones; but what is required more than anything else to make the uniformed militia as perfect as it should be is an increase of the appropriations by the Legislature to that extent that every enlisted man shall be properly armed, uniformed and equipped by the State, and all the necessary expenses of the organization met without his being called upon to contribute money for such purposes, as is now the case. To that end the regular annual appropriation should be increased to \$350,000, and that I most strenuously urge should be done.

The changes made in the organization during the current year have been as follows: Six brigades, two regiments and four battalions have been disbanded, and two brigades (composed of existing organizations) and three separate companies of infantry have been organized.

At the present time the National Guard consists of eight divisions, fourteen brigades, one regiment and eleven separate troops of cavalry, one battalion and eleven separate batteries of artillery, and twenty-four regiments, seven battalions and twenty-one separate companies of infantry; in all comprising 1,152 commissioned officers and 18,893 non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, making an aggregate force of 20,035.

The success which has attended the organization of separate companies of infantry has been greater than was anticipated at the time when authority of law was obtained for that purpose, some three years since. All of these companies were on active duty in the recent campaign and behaved well, and no difficulty was experienced in uniting several of them and forming a battalion under the command of the senior officer, although the companies came from different counties. It has already become evident that in the rural districts separate companies of infantry can more than fill the place of regiments or battalions in efficiency, and with a considerable saving of expense; therefore, the true policy is to disband in those districts the larger organizations, and organize such companies at the centres of population in their stead. There should be at least one of these companies in every county in which there are no regiments or battalions; and then every sheriff in the State would have at his call an organized force to aid him in preserving the peace, which could be almost as readily summoned as the police in the cities.

Many applications for authority to organize such companies have been received from different parts of the State, which should be granted, but the amount of the appropriations for military purposes does not admit of more being organized at present, and therefore those applications have been held in abeyance. It has now become so important that more of these companies should be organized that I have to recommend that a special appropriation of fifty thousand dollars be obtained to aid in uniforming and equipping them, as well as new companies in regiments and battalions in the first instance, and that the same be included in the supply bill, so that the organization may be completed at an early day.

The riotous disturbances during the past summer, and the action of the National Guard, are commented on in full. He says: The evidence which they gave of readiness for duty, and the alacrity of their assembling, is worthy of high commendation, and gives additional assurance of the value of well-organized National Guard. The disturbances were quelled without a resort to violent measures becoming necessary, from the moral effect of its being known that the military forces were in readiness to move and act at a moment's notice. The whole moneyed expense of the campaign (as at present ascertained, and but few bills remain to be settled) was \$227,634.37, of which \$127,082 was paid by Brigadier-General Herman Ulrich, Paymaster-General, to the officers and men of the National Guard for their services and \$100,552.37 less \$10,035.30 abstracts audited but not yet paid—was paid by the comptroller to parties for subsistence, medical and other supplies, quarters and transportation.

On rifle practice he says: Great improvement in skill has been shown in the practice of the troops and the proportionate number of marksmen has greatly increased. Nevertheless I must repeat the warning I gave in my last annual report, that care should be taken not to make this practice too onerous for fear of diminishing its popularity and checking the recruiting of the National Guard which has resulted therefrom; and moreover greater economy must be exercised with respect to the expenses incurred in connection therewith. This latter remark applies more particularly to the expenditure of ammunition which has become too lavish, and therefore there should be a further reduction in the allowance to each man. He refers to the report of Col. Wingate for the detailed information on this subject. Col. J. B. Stonehouse has recovered during the past year on war claims against the United States \$41,138.50, which sum has been paid into the State Treasury. He refers at length to the unpaid claims of the veteran militia of 1812, and adds the correspondence with the Secretary of the Treasury and Senator Kernan.

He concludes his report by referring to the reports of the heads of departments and of commanding generals contained therein. He further says: I cannot refrain from expressing my obligations to Brig.-Gen. John B. Woodward, Inspector-General; Brig.-Gen. Daniel D. Wylie, Chief of Ordnance; Brig.-Gen. Charles Hughes, Judge-Advocate-General; Col. Alfred H. Taylor, Assistant Adj.-Gen., and to all the officers of the National Guard having important duties to perform in connection with this department, for the great assistance they have rendered me; and I take pleasure in bearing testimony to the industry and efficiency of the clerks associated with me in this office.

**FIFTH NEW YORK.**—Companies B and C were at the Armory on January 8th, forming with the late men, one command of twelve files. During the company formations the men were quiet and attentive, the principal fault being the exertions of individuals to reach the front rank. After formation, the senior captain was detailed as Officer of the Day, the lieutenant of Co. A Officer of the Guard, and the ceremony of guard mounting was perfected. The company was divided into squads, under sergeants; the details were properly brought up, ranks opened and inspected, and the guard marched past. During this instruction the adjutant was ubiquitous, watching every motion and correcting all errors. After several repetitions the ceremony

was perfectly understood and well executed. At 9.15 the company was exercised in the manual and marching, the previous instruction settling the step and steady the men. The manual was poor, but the movements were all fairly performed. A left front into line from the column of fours was very handsomely executed, the fours preserving the unit and even bringing the pieces to the carry simultaneously. The wheelings were fair and the marching excellent. The distances in column of fours were well preserved, and guides careful not to string out between the companies. The instructor was correct in the commands, and insisted on their proper execution. The drawback of the drill was the paucity of numbers, and Colonel Spencer should make some extra effort to induce the men to attend company drills.

**TWELFTH NEW YORK.**—Eighteen minutes after the call for assembly, four commands of sixteen files front were turned over to Col. Cruger on Wednesday, January 9. The formation was rapidly performed with great exactness and the step after a march around the room in column of fours settled down to regularity. On the left, close columns of divisions was promptly performed, no mistake occurring. On the left, close columns of companies, the only exceptions to be taken were that the commandants of the second and third companies did not step back the required two yards when dressing. The line was formed from the column of fours in a very laudable manner, there being no distance nor time lost in dressing. In a march in column of fours, left in front, there was too much distance between the fourth (now first) and the succeeding company, causing loss of step and irregularity of cadence. On the right, close column of companies was very exactly done, only the support arms ought to have followed quicker. Another march in column of fours, left in front, showed the same irregular and, at times, increased cadence of step. A march by the flank of sub-divisions was done to perfection; a loss of distance, however, occurred in the third company when forming line. The plowman to the right into close column of companies, and the formation of column of fours by each company therefrom, were executed without the slightest irregularity, but at the right into line the commandant of the second company failed to dress promptly. A close column to the left by divisions was perfect, and on a march, division front, the alignment and distance was fully preserved. Owing to a misunderstood command, a bad break in the line of the second (now first) division was observed, but was quickly remedied by the instructor. At "to the left close column of divisions," the left guide of the first division did not face about, and the dressing was perfected by the captain, without correcting the sergeant. The plowman of the battalion into close column on the first company, right in front, and the deployment on the fourth company, as well as the plowmen and deployments on other companies, were neatly performed, there being no error or hardly any irregularity perceptible. Those that did occur were of minor importance, and, on repetitions omitted, as, for instance, the want of proper distance in close column (six yards) of the third company, and the tardiness of the commander of the fourth company in giving the order to support arms, etc. Right of companies rear into column; the third company, (A) marched too far to the rear, otherwise the movement was very good. It was the same company also that was not dressed at once after wheeling into line. A backward march with guide on the centre was conspicuous by excellent alignment and equality of step. The double column of fours was very good, also the change, of direction of the double column, while its deployment by two movements was marred by the right (first) company, which for some reason unknown had previously come to a support arms. Plying into double column, the distance for the second division was too great, necessitating its advance. At the close column on the fourth company, left in front, the third was following in the wake of the fourth company, but was promptly checked by the lieutenant-colonel and adjutant. While at the right of companies rear into column, the first company had to dress backward; the forming of divisions was well done, but the oblique could have been better. Breaking into companies with ensuing changes of direction, no error nor omission was observed. The drill closed with the manual of arms, at opened ranks, marked by prompt and proficient execution, the motions being carefully observed. The principal errors of the drill might with justice be laid at the door of the lieutenant commanding the third company in line. The most gratifying feature of the whole drill—notwithstanding the complicated movements which at times brought the third company in front of the column—is, that no mistake was made in the command or the execution of the same.

**TWENTIETH NEW YORK.**—Cos. A, B and C, of this command, were assembled at the armory on Monday, Jan. 7, for battalion drill, under the instruction of Lieut.-Col. Camp. As required in orders, the assembly was sounded at 8 o'clock prompt, but instead of the companies obeying the signal and at once falling in, it was fully ten minutes past eight before the three commands were ready to answer roll-call; The general orders for the assembling of a regiment or any part of it for parade, drill or instruction, are usually issued ten days in advance of the required duty, and in these orders the hour of assembly is designated. This being the fact the omission or dereliction of the men or sergeant in not promptly answering the drum signal is inexcusable. The "assembly" is not a notice to leisurely repair to company quarters, and there chat on the events of the day or hour, but a signal to "fall in," so that at the last tap of the drum the sergeant may face his company and call the roll. Obedience to orders is the first duty of a soldier, and the several calls of the drum, well known by every man in the ranks, are as much orders as though given by word of mouth. At 8.15 adjutant's call was sounded, the usual sergeants' reports being omitted; but even at this hour the companies were not properly formed and turned over to their commandants. The line was formed in a straggling manner at the rear of the hall, the adjutant then equalizing as prescribed by the second section of paragraph 332, Tactics, ordering officers and guides to fall out, and dividing the line into four commands of twelve front. At 8.30 the battalion was turned over, incorrectly, with fixed bayonets. Before commencing the manœuvres the instructor ordered these bayonets to be unfixed. A march in column of fours, during which the step was poor and much distance lost, commenced the drill; the fours being then wheeled into line and moved to the front. The loss of distance between companies, caused by the right sergeants allowing too much space between the front of their companies and the rear of the one preceding them, was plainly observed, and in the endeavor to close the gaps much crowding was had. A march in double time, column of fours, and battalion front, warmed the men to the work, settling the step, and rectifying the distances. This double time is a strong feature of the 22d, and they certainly do execute battalion movements in this increased time in a very handsome manner. The advance in line was excellent, and the change to the quick time very perfect. On left into line from column of fours, was well done, the guides, however, not being prompt, and that of the first

company facing left about at guides post. On a repetition of this movement the guides were again at fault, one sergeant, on arriving on the new alignment, reversing his piece, then instantly returning to the carry, and then still hesitating as to which was correct held his piece vertically and awaited further instructions. The markers too were not up to their duties, and more than once interfered with the successful execution of a movement. The on right and left into line from column of fours was repeated several times only possibly well, the companies often halting too far to the rear, causing much shuffling in the dressing. In double time these movements were well done, the four wheeling together, halting and coming to the carry with promptness and vim. Left front into line from column of fours was also handsomely performed. On executing this movement in double time the men became careless, considerable shuffling was noticed, while in the oblique too much distance was allowed. From a column of fours, left front into line, face to the rear was attempted. The officers did not clearly understand the movement, and the men were somewhat confused as to which direction they should wheel and where the front should be on the completion of the movement. After a march in column of fours, quick and double time, this movement was again attempted, but with about the same success. The instructor should have explained the movement in detail, and insisted on its perfect execution, instead of passing it over and leaving officers and men in ignorance of his intended formation. These drills are just for such instruction, and where deficiencies or omissions are found in a battalion, the duty of the instructor is to fully explain them. On a third repetition the battalion did get into line, but in a very poor and slovenly manner. The column of fours and company marchings were again repeated, the companies losing much distance, and several gaps were observed on a wheel into line. It should not be hard to remember the distance required for a front of twelve files, but in these marchings the guides would lag, while their errors were not checked, or even noticed by the company commanders or instructor. If a man loses step or mistakes for the moment the order of change of piece, it is quickly observed and he is cautioned against a repetition of the blunder; but in many cases the guides, who are responsible for the accuracy of a movement, as in this case, are allowed to go on and on, without a single caution. The guides should be instructed as well as the men. The manual of arms in line was excellent, except the fix and unfix bayonet, while the order was much too heavy. It is not necessary to feel for the ground with the piece; but the "bang" is strictly prohibited by the tactics. On the march the manual was ragged. The battalion was dismissed at 9.20, less than one hour being consumed in battalion movements. At the close, Co. B stacked arms in a very creditable manner. The drill was not as good as was expected, nor up to the work of the 22d. The men were careless, and a certain inclination to talk in the ranks was observed. The officers and non-commissioned officers endeavored throughout to obey every order and were evidently intent on securing instruction; but the drill was marred by men, who by carelessness, inattention and a want of the proper knowledge of the duties of soldiers, defeated the efforts of the officers to perfect the movements ordered by the instructor.

**TWENTY-THIRD NEW YORK.**—The annual meeting of Co. "A" was held at the Armory, January 7th, the following civil officers being elected for the ensuing year: Henry W. D. Howard, President; Chas. W. Ide, Vice-President; Arthur H. Tupper, Secretary; William J. Root, Treasurer; William J. Bruff and Leslie Lambert, Board of Directors. An election for non-commissioned officers resulted as follows: Corporal Arthur B. Hart to be Sergeant, vice Charles S. Kennedy resigned; Arthur H. Tupper to be Corporal, vice Alfred B. Phillips resigned, and Leslie Lambert to be Corporal, vice Charles W. Ide, resigned.

The following members are announced as having attended all drills and parades for the year 1877: Captain J. G. Story, 1st Lt. F. H. Howland, Sergeants C. W. Ames, J. M. Allen, C. E. Waters, Corporals A. B. Hart, T. O. Ashburn, W. B. Safford, Privates H. C. Eldridge, E. C. Fernald, G. W. Howland, W. F. Knowles, C. A. Parsons, H. D. Perrine, A. G. Sisson, F. L. Smith. The following members are exempt from detail, except Guard Duty, for the year 1878: Privates H. C. Eldridge, E. C. Fernald, G. W. Howland, W. F. Knowles, C. A. Parsons, H. D. Perrine, A. G. Sisson, F. L. Smith.

**FOURTY-SEVENTH NEW YORK.**—The commissioned officers of this regiment are directed to assemble for drill and instruction on Jan. 16, 23 and 30, and Feb. 6; non-commissioned officers, Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31; the regiment, on Monday, Jan. 14; right wing, Cos. B, G, A and C, Jan. 21 and 29, and left wing, Cos. I, F, E and D, Jan. 23 and 28—all at the regimental armory. Lieut.-Col. Geo. C. Bradley will instruct the right wing, Maj. Truman V. Tuttle the left wing. The following changes are announced. Appointments—Andrew H. Kelly, commissary; Stephen H. Glover, first sergeant, Co. E, hospital steward; Geo. E. Goodloe, Co. F, L. G. guide; Edward Milner, corporal Co. G, sergeant of the guard. Resignations—William T. Allen, captain Co. A; R. G. Williams, second lieutenant Co. F. The following named non-commissioned officers, having received their warrants, will be respected and obeyed accordingly: Wm. H. Barry, sergeant, Co. K; O. Probin James, corporal Co. B; Amandus A. Schmalz, corporal, Co. C; John Peters, corporal, Co. C; Wm. Cole, corporal, Co. D.

**SEVENTY-FIRST NEW YORK.**—The right wing of this regiment, Co.'s B, D, H and K, held its first drill this season at the State Arsenal, on Monday, January 7th. Col. Voss being the instructor, assisted by Lieut. Col. Chaddock and Adjutant Stevenson. The wing was promptly equalized into four companies of sixteen files, and the drill commenced with a short execution of the manual of arms. The marchings were then taken up, the instructor laboring systematically to perfect the distances, alignments and step in column of fours and twos. The marchings were very steady, while the constant cautioning of the Colonel settled the distances between fours and guides, to the requirement of the tactics. The wheelings were also executed from a halt and on the march, the guides maintaining a very even step and describing the proper arc necessary to complete a perfect wheel. Distance was, however, often lost on the march, and much time was wasted on the dressing, after a wheel into line. The marchings and wheelings by column of fours and twos were excellent; but on wheeling into line from column of twos, the dress should be to the marching flank and not to the centre. In almost every case of the wheel into line from the column of twos, this error in dressing was committed. Several advances in line were executed in fine shape, but at the backward march the Co. commanders should remain at the front and centre of their Co.'s, instead of shifting to the right and left flanks. "Close column on first division right in front" was spoiled by the commandant of the first division failing to advance the prescribed nine yards. This, however, could hardly be considered his fault, for the instructor incorrectly established markers in his front, and he was, perchance, compelled to halt on the forced new alignment. In the deployment on the first division, where markers should have been established, the new basis was

not marked, the first division merely dressing on its own ground, without even a guide to point the alignment. The guides of the second division did not advance on the line of guides, nor did the commandants of the junior companies command front after the dressing. A backward march, excellent on the part of the men, but with the previous mentioned error of the officers, was next executed, after which the close column movement and deployment were repeated. The first division marched a little farther to the front, or rather the markers allowed it to do so, and the payment was executed in much better shape. The deployment was, however, marked by the errors of the first formation. The movements were repeated for the third time with exactly the same errors. The ranks were then opened, and the manual very fairly executed. The time was good and the cadence well preserved. The weak spot of the manual was in the right shoulder and support arms. Here the ducking of heads was palpable. The order arms of the battalion was excellent, and the spirit of the tactics, in reference to the gently lowering of the piece was strictly followed. The musket was brought to the ground without shock, yet the cadence was not lost by the feeling for a rest for the butt. At the close of the manual the adjutant was called to the front, the first sergeants ordered to the centre to report, and the battalion dismissed with the closing ceremony of "Dress Parade." Had the battalion been originally formed for Dress Parade, as was the rule years ago, this innovation of the tactics might be excused; but here was a command formed for drill and dismissed with ceremony. To dismiss a battalion, paragraph 395 tactics, directs that the colonel shall order "Dismiss your Company," at which each captain conducts his company to its parade ground, &c. Drill is one thing and the ceremonies another, and the two should not be mixed. The drill was a good one, notwithstanding the few errors pointed out, the men were attentive and steady and used every effort to execute each movement in correct form, while the instructor was careful to direct the proper method in which to complete each formation. The division drills, under the supervision of the field officers, held early in the season, are now telling their own story as to their necessity. Men and officers work in accord, and after the rust is sufficiently well worn off, the movements by battalion will be executed with the equal smoothness of those in the company drill room. The 7th will probably give an exhibition drill and review at the Hippodrome on February 2d, and with the progress witnessed at this drill, they need not be afraid or ashamed to face the public. Attention and steadiness will work their own reward.

**NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting of the National Rifle Association was held at the 7th regiment armory Tuesday evening, January 8. Col. John Bodine was elected to fill a vacancy in the board, and the following chosen directors for three years: Lieut.-Col. E. H. Sanford, Major Henry Fulton, Hon. D. W. Judd, Col. John Ward, Mr. John P. Waters. The amendments to the by-laws proposed by the board and published in the JOURNAL of January 5 were adopted, with the exception of those allowing members paying annual dues for ten years to be life members, and the presidents of affiliating associations to be ex-officio life members and to vote for directors. The annual reports show that 69 matches were shot at Creedmoor last year; that twelve rifle clubs have affiliated with the N. R. A., and that \$18,337.02 expended. The following officers were elected by the board: President: N. P. Stanton; Vice-President, Col. G. W. Wingate; Secretary, G. S. Schermerhorn; Treasurer, Gen. D. D. Wylie; Executive Committee, Col. Gildersleeve, Gen. Shaler and D. W. Judd.

**CONNECTICUT.**—The second of a series of battalion drills in the 4th regiment took place at Union armory, Bridgeport, Tuesday evening, December 18. Cos. B and E comprised the battalion, equilizing four companies. At 8:15 o'clock, First Lieut. Cornell, Co. B, acting adjutant, formed the line and turned it over to Col. Fairchild, the instructor. The principle movements were opening and closing ranks, line formations toward the sides of the file-closers, flank movements and manual of arms. A dress parade followed the drill, the ceremony being well performed. The next drill, in January, will begin the ceremony of guard mounting and duties of sentinels. The battalion, comprising Cos. C, D, and G, will drill in the school of the battalion at Stamford this month.

The monthly report of drills in this regiment show that during the past quarter Co. D had the highest average attendance in the month of September, and the second highest, Co. I. For October and November, Co. I was first, Co. B for same month stood second.

**TENNESSEE.**—A squad of the Knoxville Rifles, in command of Capt. Alex. Allison, visited the prize drill of the Georgia State Fair, in October, held at Atlanta, and were the guests of the Governor's Guards, of that city. As a token of their appreciation of the generous hospitality of the Guards, the Rifles have recently sent them two very handsome snare drums for their drum corps—a most timely and highly acceptable Christmas gift.

**GEORGIA.**—The Savannah Rifle Association, of which Gen. H. H. Anderson (formerly of the U. S. Army) is the efficient president, indulged in a delightful target practice on New Year's day, to which a social reunion was added. The prizes were a lot of turkeys marked "good ordinary, low ordinary." The shooting was at 200 yards, Creedmoor target. Capt. McAlpin's team scored 682 and Capt. Hayward's team 567. An informal shoot for a dinner resulted in turning the tables—Heywood's team scoring 164 and McAlpin's 161, each member having only three shots, ten having been allowed in the formal contest. The highest individual scores were 41, by J. W. Schley and by J. R. Saussy. The Forest City Light Infantry, the Chatham Hussars, the Union Lincoln Guards, the Cadets, and the Deimonico Guards, all colored companies of Savannah, had a regimental parade on New Year's day, under command of Capt. W. H. Woodhouse, of the Light Infantry, senior captain. They made a creditable appearance, and marched well. This looks like practical reconstruction and equal rights under the militia laws.

**FLORIDA.**—The 1st Florida Battery, of Jacksonville, has been provided with two hundred new brass twelve pound howitzers, and Capt. G. C. Wilson promises to put his command in perfect trim at the earliest moment. A new cavalry company has also been organized at Gainesville in Alachua county.

**CINCINNATI SHOOTING AND FISHING CLUB.**—From Cincinnati, January 2, 1878, a correspondent writes as follows: I have read with much interest the reports of rifle practice, which have appeared from time to time in your valuable paper, and believing you to be able to appreciate good shooting, even if it should be done outside of New York, I send you herewith a score made by a party of gentlemen, of this city, on New Year's day. The six gentlemen composing the team belong to the old C. S. and F. Club and Amateneo Rifle Association, but they do not, by any means, represent all the shooting talent of the association (the writer and several other first class shots having been absent). Their record, however, it is believed, will be interesting to your many readers as well as yourselves. I will not be understood as saying that the association can furnish another team of six who can equal the achievement of these gentlemen, but I do

assert that there are others of us who can shoot, and that the team was not a picked one. The shooting yesterday was done at a Creedmoor target, at 200 yards, offhand, and with the following rifles: Sedam, a new improved Winchester; Baum, Remington Creedmoor; L. R. Disney, Remington Phoenix; Campbell, Maynard mid-range; Caldwell and Hall, each muzzle-loaders of home manufacture. The following is the score:

Hall	45 5 4 4 4 5 4 4 4 5 4 4 4 3	33
Caldwell	45 5 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 5 5	33
Baum	44 4 4 4 5 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 2	32
Sedam (First)	45 4 5 4 4 4 4 4 4 5 4 4 5 4 5	32
Campbell	44 4 3 5 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 5 1	31
Disney	43 4 5 5 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 3	31

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FOR SECOND PLACE.	
Hall	44 4 12
Caldwell (Second)	55 4 14
Disney	44 4 12

F. P. G.

**NEW JERSEY.**—Gov. Bedell says the New Jersey militia is not excelled in discipline and adaptability to service by the militia of any other State, and he trusts it will be permanently maintained on its present basis. Of the railroad riot he says: Failure in the use of military to suppress riots only aggravates and futile effort is reprehensible, if possible to guard against it. For these reasons, and to stifle the least outbreak, the whole National Guard was ordered on duty. Its presence, so distributed as to be available at probable or possible points of danger, gave such assurance of support to the civil powers, and created such a dread of the consequences attendant upon disorder and riot, that those disposed to be lawless were kept in check, and life and property thereby thoroughly protected. The outcroppings of violence here and there were but the indications of what might have happened with less precaution. The military were at all times faithful, prompt and soldierly, meriting and receiving general commendation. I regret that the pay of the men was so inadequate to the service performed, being only at the rate of \$13 a month, and therefore ask and recommend that the Legislature make further provision for them. The amount expended in preserving the peace was \$35,433.50. No charges have been made by the railroad companies for transportation.

**PENNSYLVANIA.**—Next week the several commands belonging to the 2d Brigade will be inspected by the brigade inspector. Cos. A, B, C and E, of 2d regiment, on Jan. 14; Cos. F, G, H, I and 2d, on Jan. 16; Cos. C, H, E, G, and I, of 6th regiment, on January 15; Cos. A, B, D, E, and F, on Jan. 18; State Fencibles on Jan. 17, and Gray Invincibles on Jan. 16.

#### VARIOUS ITEMS.

—ARTICLES from Massachusetts and Pennsylvania are unavoidably laid over until next issue.

—A "RUMBER" team has been organized in the 32d New York, in honor of Col. John Rueger.

—The Eagle Troop, 5th New York Division, will hold its first annual reception at Corsair's Hall, Mount Vernon, Westchester county, on January 25.

—The 12th New York will hold its second social reunion at the armory, Forty-fifth street and Broadway, on Friday, January 18. Dancing at 8 o'clock.

—The Bennington Battle Monument Association have raised \$27,500, and it is expected a much larger sum will be obtained for the object in view.

—We believe there is no truth that 63 out of the 68 members of Co. I, 13th New York, have petitioned for disbandment. There is, however, some trouble between the colonel and the captain of the company.

—The annual meeting of the Board of Officers of the 13th New York will be held on January 15. Reading of reports, election of officers, and appointment of committees will be the order of business.

—The English Volunteers are subscribing for a dinner to be given to the Dunstable farmers who allowed them to manoeuvre upon their grounds last Easter. The Volunteers are disturbed by an alarming rumor that they are not to be allowed to assume the helmet adopted for the British Regulars.

—The 13th New York will hold a band concert at its armory, Flatbush avenue, Brooklyn, on Saturday evening, January 13. Dancing at 9 o'clock. The regiment will be reviewed by Brig.-Gen. James Jordan at the armory on Wednesday, January 10. A concert and dancing will close the ceremonies.

—The Legislative Committee on the Inauguration of Governor McClellan at Trenton, N. J., January 15, have appointed Col. D. Loder, Assistant Adjutant-General of the New Jersey National Guard, to act as marshal of the day.

—The following committees have been appointed in the 32d New York for 1878: Finance Committee—Lieut.-Col. Louis Bost, Surgeon Adolph Orth, Lieut. S. R. Blumcke; Music Committee—Major Louis Tinkelmeier, Quartermaster Henry Nale, Jr.; Commissary—John Neger; Armory Committee—Adjutant Fred. J. Karcher, Captain Chas. Vorgang, and Lieut. F. W. Parlette.

—The Delaware and Hudson Canal Company and the Queen Insurance Company have each subscribed \$500; the Third Avenue Railroad Company, Archer and Pancost Manufacturing Company, and Orient Mutual Insurance Company, each \$250; and the Atlantic Mutual Marine Insurance Company, in view of the exceptional services rendered at various critical times by the 7th New York, have subscribed \$2,000 for the armory fund.

—The Washington Light Infantry, of Charleston, S. C., recently formally removed their headquarters to the old Picket Guard-house, taking possession of it for the first time since the war. There was much rejoicing on the occasion, and many ladies assembled on the sidewalks to view the triumphal procession as it moved down East Bay to the Battery, and up Meeting, Broad, King and Calhoun streets.

—Six hundred and forty-seven thousand eight hundred and four cartridges, costing over \$18,000, were issued by the State of New York for eleven months of 1877 for class practice and State and division matches at Creedmoor. Four thousand five hundred and fourteen dollars and twelve cents was paid for transportation to Creedmoor, and \$1,800 to the ranges; \$2,000 for transportation of targets, and \$6,900 for use of ranges, making a total of \$35,000 for rifle practice. Thirty-six thousand rounds were expended by the 7th regiment, 31,372 by the 2d, 30,028 by the 9th, 29,282 by the 8th; the 12th, 13th, 63d and 71st each expended from 20 to 25,000; the 5th, 14th, 32d, 48th 3d and 8th from 15 to 20,000; the 10th, 11th, 21st, 22d, 28th, 47th and 49th from 10 to 15,000; the 27th, 5,630; the 51st, 5,000, and the 54th, 3,300.

It is difficult, writes a war correspondent, to describe as it is, indeed, almost impossible to understand, even on the spot, the marvellous rapidity of fire and the enormous quantity of bullets that are whizzing in the air. Above the roll of musketry is heard the whistling, like a strong wind blowing through the trees. These are the showers of bullets that rain upon the ground anywhere within a radius of a mile and a half from the fight, and the oftener he hears this sound the more its significance becomes clear to him. It means that every man of the thousands engaged is firing several times a minute, more or less, as he fires at random or takes aim. The Turk, as is well known, does not take aim, but fires from the hip when in the open, lays his rifle on the parapet when behind entrenchments, and shoots somewhere in the direction of his enemy, and depends more on the quantity of bullets he sends than on the direction of them. When this fact is borne in mind it will easily be understood why the proportion of dead and wounded is so great in every battle that has taken place.

**A LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS TREE.**—Mr. John Beck, of Lititz, Penn., a soldier of the 79th Penn. Vols., has produced a Christmas tree, which is thus described by the Lancaster, Pa., *New Era*: "The tree and surroundings occupy a room 11 by 13 feet and 7½ feet in height. Three sides of the room are covered with evergreens, hung with all manner of glass balls, toys, pictures, small flags, etc. The scene is the capture of Chattanooga. As you enter the door of the room, to your right is the Lookout Mountain, built of large stones covered with sod, about three feet high, with the village of Summertown on the top. Off to the right, on the opposite side of the room, is Chattanooga, back of which is Pigeon Mountain, with Fort Wood on the hillside. The Chattanooga and Nashville railroad runs around Lookout Mountain, with a branch running off to Knoxville, Tenn.; also a branch to Atlanta, Ga. Back of Chattanooga again is Missionary Ridge. A miniature telegraph and the Tennessee river run parallel with the railroad. Station houses and telegraph offices, with sentinels around them, are to be seen. A train of cars is in motion. The Army is marching from Chattanooga up Lookout Mountain; cannon are stationed on the hills, and all the paraphernalia of the Army in sight. The city is illustrated by a number of little buildings, churches, and with streets. Bridges span railroad cuts, and roadways are made up the sides of the mountains. At either end of the railroad, away back among the greens, are looking glasses so arranged as to reflect the road, making it appear to extend further on. This effect is very fine, and leads many to suppose that there is another room back of the greens. The whole scene is grand, and is the admiration of all who see it. Up to the present time 756 persons, from town and country, have visited this wonderful display of artistic skill."

**LEE'S DESIRE TO END THE WAR.**—The Mobile (Ala.) *Register* editorially says: "The December number of the 'Historical Magazine' contains the reply of Hon. R. M. T. Hunter, of Virginia, to the recent letter of ex-President Davis. Mr. Hunter's communication discloses a number of very remarkable facts, among which is the statement that both General Lee and General Breckinridge despaired of the issue of the war, and earnestly desired that some steps should be taken to secure peace a considerable time before the final catastrophe. General Lee went so far as to seek a personal interview with Mr. Hunter, urging him to accept the responsibility of introducing such a measure to the Senate of the Confederate States. Mr. Hunter represents that Mr. Davis was at that time for some reason so prejudiced against him that the views expressed by him [Mr. Hunter] in private conference were retailed and exaggerated so as to injure him, so that he was compelled to decline to communicate with the President for fear of misrepresentation. The article paints a gloomy picture of the distracted condition of affairs at the Confederate capital just prior to the final collapse, and applies some heavy charges to Mr. Davis personally. While such controversies are in some respects to be deprecated, they serve to enlarge our knowledge as to interesting and critical periods of history which might never have otherwise become public property."

**HYDRAULIC NAVAL GUN CARRIAGES.**—Trials have lately taken place at Cronstadt, of a new hydro-pneumatic gun carriage, manufactured last year at Erit, by the firm of Messrs. Eastons and Anderson, chiefly from designs furnished by Lieut. Razkaoff, of the Imperial Russian navy. In the case of the circular iron-clad, the problem was to accommodate two 12 inch 40 ton guns, 20 feet long over all, and 4 feet 10 inches in diameter, and 6 feet 10 inches deep. The sides of the carriages are composed of 6 inch wrought iron plates, connected together by cast steel frames, so as to form a solid and rigid platform. The guns are placed each side of the centre pivot, as near as they could be brought together, and are each mounted on a pair of massive wrought iron levers, connected by a rocking shaft, and elevated or lowered by water pressure, acting on steel trunks, sliding in steel cylinders. From the bottom of each cylinder a 4 inch pipe leads to a valve chest, containing the recoil valve, which is loaded to the necessary degree of pressure by a series of disc springs, the tension of which is increased as the gun recoils, by means of a pair of chains wrapping round the rocking shaft, connecting the levers on which the gun is supported. For raising the gun and lowering it without firing, a special hand valve is provided and connected to the pressure pipes. The rotation of the gun platform is performed by a 40 horse engine, driving a cast steel annular toothed wheel, weighing 7 tons. The motive power is water, under a pressure of between 800 and 1,000 lbs. per square inch, supplied by a duplex pump, perfectly automatic in its action, stopping as soon as the required pressure is obtained, and starting the moment it falls, working at a rate corresponding to the requirements of the guns. The carriages have been placed at Cronstadt, near Fort Menchikoff, and have been very satisfactorily tried.

**MEHMET Ali** had just succeeded in putting his scanty battalions into something like an army, when he received an order from the Council of War to attack instantly. In vain he represented that both his own mountainous position and that of his enemy were so closely wrapped in the clouds that no one could see n yards before him. The reply was simple and concise—"Attack or resign." Like wise man be chose the latter course, and quitted the camp for Constantinople without the loss of a moment. This reminds one of the experiences during the early days of our of secession.

#### STEEL ARMOR PLATES.

**IRON**, of Dec. 23, gives an account of the trial of four distinct kinds of armor plate, each constructed with a view to prevent stabbing and resist penetration—in a word, to show how far steel, either alone or in combination with iron, could resist the impact of the chilled shot to which the authorities have agreed to assign a maximum power of penetration. The competition was limited to two great houses, one of which contributed three samples. Messrs. Cammell and Co. sent three plates of various construction. One of these was of mild steel, very slightly carburised, another of steel with an iron backing, and a third with a plate of steel inserted sandwich-wise between two plates of iron. Sir Joseph Whitworth sent a specimen plate of mild steel into which plugs of harder metal had been inserted with the object of checking penetration while preserving toughness. A 250 lb. Palliser chilled shot was used in the experiments. In the Whitworth plate the hard steel plugs did their work in splitting up the shot, but, unfortunately, they helped also to split up the plate and reduce it to a wreck. The steel plate with iron backing failed completely, the first shot fired at it going clean through the steel facing into the iron. The sandwich plate also failed completely to stand the test—splitting up badly. Only one of the four plates behaved well, and this was the sub-carbonized plate, made by Messrs. Cammell. It was expected that a ductile steel would resist impact better than iron, and would not "star," and these expectations were fairly realized, although cracking took place to a greater extent than was anticipated. Nevertheless, this plate went through a severe ordeal with a few indentations and hair cracks, and, although bent inwards, proved that it possessed immense power of resistance. The result of these important experiments, *Iron* concludes, goes far to prove that armor plates of homogeneous metal not highly carbonized possess unmistakable advantages over those of iron and steel welded together, or of mild steel plugged by harder steel.

The tendency of hard steel to "star" and crack in all directions makes it but a poor substitute for rolled iron, which, if unable to resist the impact of shot equally well, has the advantage of localising the disaster instead of breaking up altogether. In this respect an iron clad, as opposed to a steel-clad vessel, has some of the advantages of the old wooden ships. The *Athenas* and *Téméraires*, of days gone by, were shot through and through without being much the worse, and although the puncture effected by a 250 lb. shot is a very different matter to that of a 64 pounder, the difficulty could be met unless the injury occurred in a vital part. An iron-clad ship would not crumble to pieces, nor would its plates peel off, as steel plates seem inclined to do. Steel, however, is now a very elastic term, and is applied to a variety of forms of iron possessing very different attributes, and it would be rash to decide that no known form of it could be made available for armor plates. On the contrary, slightly carburised steel appears to possess some decided advantages over iron. It "stars" but slightly, and in its power of resisting impact is unquestionably superior to iron. The question is to find the exact kind of steel which can resist shot in the best possible manner; and in considering this question it should not be forgotten that in actual warfare a ship is rarely struck either point blank or at the short distance prescribed for experiments. A ship in action would rarely be submitted to actual hard pounding. It is hard to imagine that modern iron-clads, moved by powerful engines, would "lay each other by the board," and fire "into each other's portholes." These are phases of the past—like the "weather gage"—and could never be realized in modern maritime warfare. Sea combats of the future will, like their ancient examples, be struggles of strength and speed, but the trial will take place under very different conditions. Rams form no unimportant element in a possible modern combat, and however much artillery has the better of armor in experiment, it is quite possible that in practice the results may be directly reversed. There is, however, the off-chance of an unlucky shot, and against this it is the duty of a maritime nation to provide. But, to judge from these experiments, the best armor plate has yet to be discovered.

**SURGEONS IN RUSSIAN EMPLOY.**—Numerous letters having been addressed to the Minister of the United States at St. Petersburg, asking for information as to what qualifications are necessary to enable an applicant to obtain a position of surgeon in the Imperial Army of Russia, Mr. Boker in his despatch of the 21st ult. to the Department of State, gives the following rules for admission: The law of Russia, which, it is understood, has not been relaxed during the present war, is that an application for the post of surgeon in the Russian army shall be a graduate of a medical school of Russia; that he shall be able to pass a severe examination before a board of the medical staff of the army; that he shall speak and write the Russian language, and that in receiving his commission he shall swear allegiance to the Emperor of Russia to the exclusion of any other allegiance or citizenship. Under these circumstances it will be perceived that no citizen of the United States, who has not received a medical education in Russia, is eligible to the position of surgeon in the Russian Army. Some medical men have applied for temporary posts as volunteer surgeons, and their services have been gratefully accepted, either by the Russian authorities or by the Societies of the Red Cross. The pay of surgeons in such positions is, however, very low. Their services may be considered as rendered almost wholly in a spirit of philanthropy, and there is little hope, except under extraordinary circumstances, that a surgeon so serving will ultimately be invited to accept a commission in the Imperial Russian Army.

#### FOREIGN ITEMS.

**CORPORAL CHAMBERS**, the only remaining military Fenian prisoner, has been released by the English government.

A LETTER from Colonel T. W. Knox, dated Singapore, Dec. 6, says the Siamese are putting their forts, ships and army in fighting condition in anticipation of trouble with China. A large force of men is working on the forts at the mouth of the Meinam River.

ACCORDING to the *Neue Freie Presse*, twenty-five fresh cannon have just been discovered at Plevna, Osman having buried them before his sortie. Of the seventy-seven previously announced to have been found in Plevna, Roumania is to have twenty. She will also have the custody of three Pashas and 10,000 of the prisoners.

EXPERIMENTS recently made at Shoeburyness to ascertain how far the charges of gunpowder fired in the service field guns may be reduced, as sometimes required, have shown that charges below 1lb. 4oz. cannot be depended upon with certainty to ignite the fuse of the shell. A trial has also been made of newly-designed shell rockets with gun-cotton heads. One of these, having a charge of 3lb. only of wet gun-cotton, fitted with a detonating fuze, and containing a short length of composition to burn for a few seconds after striking the object, was fired into an earthwork, and penetrated to a depth of 15ft. before bursting. The crater formed by this explosion was 12ft. in diameter, and nearly 5ft. deep. The experiment is considered as having proved the great value of gun-cotton in breaching operations, and the possibility of delaying the explosion until the rocket or shell has reached the required penetration.

MR. DONALD MACKENZIE, at a recent meeting at Bradford, described his scheme for forming a canal across the Great Desert. Of the vast plain, or hollow, in the desert, known as El Juf, the greatest length of the depression is about 500 miles, the breadth about 120, and the area about 80,000 square miles. This vast area is depressed about 200 feet below sea level. This depression was formerly connected with the Atlantic Ocean by the channel Sakiet El Hamra, or Red Channel, which had in process of time been blocked up with sand. It was proposed to reopen this channel and let in the sea, which would cover the great area above described, and enable commerce to be carried on with places in the interior, rich in produce of various kinds. The submerging of the basin of El Juf would open up a navigable highway for the commerce of the world to the heart of Africa, and present an extensive field for the influence of civilisation.

A CORRESPONDENT writing from Geneva, December 16, says: "The Federal Assembly is now sitting at Berne, and has first taken in hand the budget. At Berne, as elsewhere, the greatest expense is the Army, for, although not permanent, it costs almost as dear, proportionately, as the Austrian. A proposal has therefore been made to reduce it. At present it consists of eight divisions of elite and eight of landwehr. Both classes of troops are composed of about 100 battalions, exclusive of the carbineers. Each battalion should contain 744 men, but in Switzerland every man must be a soldier, and the result is that in certain cantons, in Geneva for example, there are battalions 1,500 strong. The consequence is an unexpected increase of the military population, which weighs heavily on the finances of the confederation. Proposals have consequently been made to reduce the Army to six divisions of the elite and six of landwehr, forming a total of 114 battalions, and the number of recruits annually to 13,000. But such measures would be an evident violation of the letter and the spirit of the Federal Constitution. In Switzerland each citizen should be a soldier. Geneva has protested, and other cantons will probably do the same. Of all the reductions of expenditure proposed, the least radical only have been adopted. The shooting exercises, for example, are to be abolished in 1878."

THE cable announces the death, at Paris, Jan. 8th, of Charles Guillaume Marie Cousin de Montauban, Count de Palikao, the French general and senator. He was born on the 24th of June, 1796, and was employed at an early age in Algiers, and distinguished himself there as a cavalry officer. He became a general of brigade Sept. 21, 1851, and general of division Sept. 28, 1855. He had chief command of the French expedition to China in 1860. The capture of the forts of Takou at the mouth of the Peiho on the 20th of August, the great victory of Palikao over General Sangko-hio-sin, on the 21st of September, the destruction of the royal palace, the entry into Pekin on the 12th of October, forced the Chinese to accept the treaty imposed by the allies, and assured, at least temporarily, the respect of European interests in the extreme east. Jan. 22, 1862, he received the title of count. He had command of the garrison at Lyons during the Franco-Prussian war, and was in the last days of the empire made secretary of war, showing great energy, but subjecting himself to severe criticism. In December, 1871, he published a justification of himself, entitled, "Twenty-five Days as Minister of War." He had since lived in comparative retirement.

THE retreat of the ten thousand, says *Broad Arrow*, as described in Xenophon's "Anabasis," covered much of the ground that has been the scene of recent battles. In spite of the differences between the condition of the belligerents of to-day and those of 2278 years ago, if we substitute Turkish Pashas for Persian Satraps, and plundering Kurds for the ferocious wandering tribes that incessantly molested the army of Xenophon, the whole description in the "Anabasis" would be applicable to the state of Armenia at the present moment. The army of Xenophon numbered 14,000 men when it started from the neighborhood of Babylon to return to Greece. After a five months' march, in the winter across the

plains of Mesopotamia and the snowy mountains of Armenia, the expedition arrived on the 8th of February, 400 B.C., at Tiebzonde, reduced in numbers to 10,440 men. On its journey it passed the Lake Van, crossed the Murad or Eastern Euphrates, crossed the chain of hills were Erzeroum now stands, and then passing by Gymnias, which is believed to be Ardanut near Ardahan, at last arrived at the sea. As there were not ships enough to transport the army into Greece, a part of it marched along the Hellespont and took Byzantium by storm. The mountain from which Xenophon first caught sight of the sea is believed to have been the Kartsch-Dagh, between Ardanut and Batoum.

THE Army and Navy Gazette, says: It can be hardly disputed that the failure of Russia to properly utilise her railways is attributable, in the first place, to the want of the necessary personnel for a sufficiently numerous field railway force. The evils pointed out led to the appointment of a committee for considering the principal questions in connection with the utilization of railways for military purposes. The result of that inquiry, while it cannot be subject to doubt, will be, at the same time, of great interest. It is not the number of strategic railways, but their proper use, which will command success in future; and in this respect a well-directed and perfectly-drilled field railway force will be an important condition. It will be the duty of every military administration to create such a force, for upon it will depend, and by it will be affected, future strategical concentrations. The practical Americans were the first to use this important force in the Civil War. Although the experiences of that war are unfortunately too little studied, the services rendered by their field detachments are at present unequalled. In the war of 1866, Austria was without any field railway detachments, leaving the necessary work to their engineers, while the Prussians made use of the employés of the different railways. Although the latter performed the duties imposed upon them creditably, the necessity was recognized of first forming the force now at the disposal of Germany. As has been already remarked, it has grown gradually, and it may be said that no other State has bestowed such an amount of attention upon the subject. Gathered together from among railway employés and engineers, the creations of all the other States want in homogeneity.

THE Turks appear to have a fine talent for praying. An Italian paper has published a translation of a prayer which has just been composed by the Scheik-el-Islam, who is, we believe, the Archbishop of Canterbury of Turkey. It is rather a lengthy document, but we select one or two of the choicest expressions:—"Destroy, O God! even the traces of the impious Russians and impious Bulgarians and Greeks who grope in the darkness of wickedness like hogs in the mire. Dissolve their league, destroy their troops, crush their arms, disorder their ranks, annihilate their forces, and hurl them into the abyss of hell. Confound their speech, and make their blood to flow in torrents; and may their heads roll at the feet of Thy faithful people. Cast down their rulers, level their fortresses, exhaust and annul their strength. Make their children orphans and their wives widows; plunge their mothers into sorrow, disturb and confound their minds. . . . Let them be destroyed by burnings, slaughters, shipwrecks, the gallows, pestilences, hunger, and earthquakes. May their cities be depopulated and their houses be visited and castigated by all Thy exterminating angels; may all those impious ones who wish to do us harm suffer evil in their eyes, their senses, and in all the parts of their bodies, and also their wives and children until they lose their lives. . . . May their riches become the prey of those who believe in Thee and Thy prophet Mahomet!" This, adds Broad Arrow, is undeniably a masterly piece of cursing. It reminds us of the Cardinal's per-

formance in the same line, in the famous Ingoldsby legend:

"He cursed him at board, he cursed him in bed,  
From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

He cursed him in eating, he cursed him in drinking,  
He cursed him in coughing, in sneezing, in winking.  
Never was heard such a terrible curse;

But, what gave rise to no little surprise,  
Nobody seemed one penny the worse."

In consequence of the frequent failure of machinery of war vessels, the English Admiralty has issued a revised code of instructions for the government of the Steam Reserve. Important alterations have been introduced with reference to the measured-mile runs, the object being to make the trial test not only of what the engines are capable of doing when at their best, and pushed to the utmost of their power, but also of what they are likely to perform in the ordinary circumstances of sea service. Great attention has been given to the importance of securing perfect observations by a series of checks and counter checks, and of obtaining uniform results throughout the trials. In all the new contracts a six hours' run has been substituted for the mile trial, and if the machinery works well and indicates the covenanted horse-power it will be "taken over" at once by the Admiralty. Before the official trials are held the contractors are to be allowed such preliminary trials under way as they may consider necessary to prepare the engines. The contractor's or measured mile trial will not be held until after the ships are commissioned, and when all the legend wrights are on board, so that the ship to be tried will have been brought down to her estimated draught. Four runs are to be made at full power, four at two-thirds power, and four at one-third power, steam being obtained from the whole or part, of the boilers as may be deemed advisable. The engines and boilers are to be worked to the utmost extent of their capabilities, not only when running the mile, but during the whole of the intervals while the ship is going round between the runs; and the team must not be partially shut off when the ship is not on the mile, with a view to realising a higher result when she is actually on the mile. Each trial at full and reduced power should be completed while the tide is running in one direction, and it is required that between the runs the ships are to be kept well away from the marks, so as to ensure the attainment of full speed on returning to them. Stringent regulations are to be enforced with reference to the indicator diagrams and the noting of the revolutions, and whenever irregularities occur the runs are to be repeated until the results agree one with another so nearly as to leave no reasonable doubt of their substantial accuracy. The turning capabilities of the ship are, as formerly, to be tried on the same day as the measured mile trial is made. Should any defects occur to the machinery or the ship, the trial is to cease, and a new series of runs is to be commenced as soon as the defects have been remedied. If the boilers should prime so that they cannot be worked at full power, even near the close of the performances, the trial will be considered unsatisfactory, and is to be repeated.

THE BULL DURHAM.—The original genuine Durham smoking tobacco is manufactured at Durham, N. C. The close of the late unpleasantness found both armies at Durham, N. C., where John N. Green, since dead, was conducting the business of manufacturing smoking tobacco in a small way. During the armistice between Generals Sherman and Johnson, which preceded Johnson's surrender, Johnson's force lay between Durham and Hillsboro, his rear resting upon Greensboro, while Sherman's force lay between Durham and Raleigh, his rear resting on Goldsboro. Durham was voted neutral ground. Here the blue and gray blended together in camp life revels, and the factory of Green

was sacked, and little sacks or pouches of tobacco were thus distributed in a short time and most effectually, from Maine to the Rio Grande. Green, seeing the opportunity, baptized his tobacco "Durham," and adopted the side view of the Durham bull for his trade mark. On the death of Green, July, '69, the present firm purchased, at the sale of his executor, all his right, title, and interest in the "Durham" brand, together with his trade mark, and by their skill and industry have made the business what it is. At the time of sale the products of the concern was less than 3,000 lbs. per month, while under the present management as much as 100,000 lbs. have been turned out in a single day. In '69, the time of the sale, the village numbered less than 300 souls. Now the embryo city counts 3,000, and can boast the finest tobacco manufacturing prospects of any point South.—Norfolk Landmark.

THE attention of our musical readers is directed to the advertisement of Mr. Daniel F. Beatty, of Washington, N. J., who makes a special offer to purchasers of his pianos and organs, which are described as "superb, sweet in tone, and of the finest workmanship, and sold at prices remarkably low."

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"Cigars by mail." See Adv. of A. M. Platt, New Haven, Ct.

#### BIRTHS.

ROGERS.—Dec. 18, at Michigan Military Academy, Orchard Lake, Mich., to the wife of J. Sumner Rogers, late U. S. Army, a daughter.

#### MARRIED.

[Announcements of Marriages and Births FIFTY CENTS each and the signature and address of the party sending must accompany the notice.]

MCCREA—DE PAU.—December 27, by the Rev. Dr. Tiffany, Edward P. McCrea, U. S. Navy, to SYLVIE DE PAU, daughter of Louis A. De Pau, and granddaughter of the late Colonel Herman Thoen.

SEYMOUR—GUEST.—At Portsmouth, N. H., on Wednesday, December 26, Lieutenant CHARLES SEYMOUR, U. S. Navy, to ANNA JOSEPHINE, only daughter of Commodore John Guest, U. S. Navy.

SHAPE—RICHARDSON.—At the residence of the bride's mother, Mrs. I. J. Richardson, Delaware, Ohio, by the Rev. Dr. UPFORD, D. D., Rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lieut. A. C. SHARPE, 23d U. S. Infantry, to Miss MARGARET P. RICHARDSON.

TYLER—OSGOOD.—At Christ Church, Norwich, Conn., Thursday, Jan. 3, by the Rt. Rev. Alfred Lee, D. D., Bishop of Delaware, assisted by the Rev. Samuel Giese, D. D., Lieut. AUGUSTUS C. TYLER, 4th U. S. Cavalry, to NELLIE, daughter of Dr. Charles Osgood.

#### DIED.

Brief announcements will be inserted under this head without charge. Obituary notices and resolutions should be paid for at the rate of two cents a word, unless it is intended to leave the question of their insertion to the discretion of the Editor.

CONRAD.—On the 31st Dec., 1877, at Las Vegas, N. M., en route to El Paso, Texas, of congestion of the lungs, HENRY MASON, youngest son of Capt. C. H. and Mrs. Conrad, 15th U. S. Infantry, aged 4 months and 8 days.

FAIRFAX.—In New London, Conn., at 2 p.m., Jan. 8, VIRGINIA CABY RAGLAND, wife of Donald McNeill Fairfax, Commodore U. S. Navy.

#### G. W. PACH, Photographer, 841 Broadway, New York,

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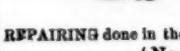
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